

TRENDSJOURNAL.com | FORECASTING SINCE 1980 | 8 DECEMBER 2020

TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

TOP 10 TRENDS

2021

Greatest Depression
Anti-Tax, Anti-Vax Political Parties
China 2021: The Chinese Century
Youth Revolution
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8 DECEMBER 2020

TOP 10 TRENDS FOR 2021

GREATEST DEPRESSION



The “Greatest Depression” has begun. Unprecedented in world history, much of the world’s economy has been locked down to fight the COVID War. Hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods have been destroyed, and tens of millions of businesses will be wiped off the face of the Earth.

Yes, there will be a bounce back, but it will be short lived. Unemployment numbers will decrease but not because new jobs are being created... a small percentage of workers will be returning to their old jobs.

And, yes, there will be short-term economic spikes as economies temporarily rebound from their COVID War lows, but the devastating lockdowns, which are again being imposed by governments, will sink both developed and undeveloped nations deeply into the “Greatest Depression.”

When the reality of the “Greatest Depression” sets in and government stimulus is no longer boosting it up, high-flying equity markets will crash around the world.

ANTI-VAX, ANTI-TAX POLITICAL PARTIES



The war is on! The fight between governments which will demand mass vaccinations and those opposing them will rage across much of the world.

In many Asian countries, such as China, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam, the vast majorities of the population will accept government mandates for COVID vaccinations.

Among many Western nations, however, there will be strong political forces forming new political parties to counter ruling establishments which impose rules and regulations in violation of Constitutions and the Bill of Rights.

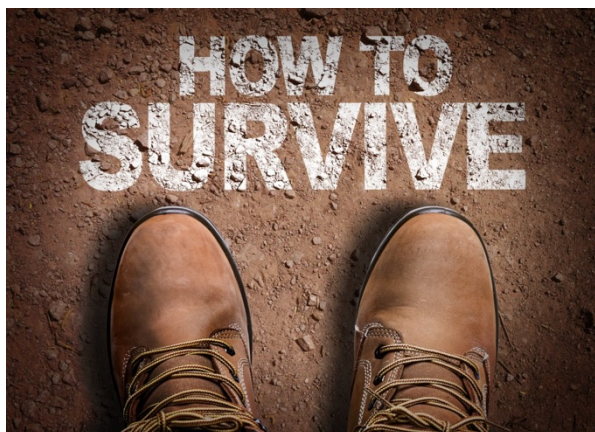
It should be noted that in Denmark earlier this month, the government proposed a new law that would force its citizens to get a COVID vaccination. After nine days of protests, the proposal was dropped.

Anti-tax

Another platform of newly-forming political parties will anti-tax. For example, with schools closed and learning online, taxpayers will demand sharp decreases in school taxes. Far fewer teachers will be needed, and all costs related to brick-and-mortar school buildings will be substantially lower, thus, taxes should be sharply cut.

And, overall, with businesses going bust and tax revenues decreasing, governments will attempt to raise taxes to make up for the shortfall. With people earning less and economically distressed, they will rise up against governments raising taxes.

SURVIVALISM



Not a second to lose.

A blink of an eye is too long to wait.

To survive, you have to attack the attacker.

Beyond the homeless on the street desperate for a warm place to sleep and something to eat.

Beyond the mentally ill, suffering deeply and lost in the meaning of life.

Beyond those in the depths of despair who have lost everything and have nothing left to lose.

Beyond the thief, murderer, robber, or rapist.

Beyond the gang members who will do anything to get anything...

Beyond knowing survival skills to attack the attacker to fight for your life or lose it... SURVIVALISM during the “Greatest Depression” is a 2021 megatrend.

Doubling up on mental health, physical fitness, and diet, when everything else is going down, will separate the Survivalists from the victims. The winners from losers.

Surviving by finding new job opportunities, learning new skills, and finding OnTrendpreneur® opportunities are all part of the SURVIVALISM skills and passion needed in the fight for your life in 2021 and beyond.

ROARING 2021



Just as the Roaring '20s followed the Spanish Flu, we forecast a “Roaring 2021” will follow COVID as locked down youngsters hit the streets to let loose and party.

Tired of being masked up and locked in, with their libidos heavily beating, restrictions or not, from Gen Z to mid-Millennials, it's Party Time. While this is the prime demographic that will be Roaring in 2021, from Gen Y to Baby Boomers who don't buy into the lockdown measures, and who used to live lives of fun and entertainment, will be testament that this movement will span generations.

SPEAKEASIES



It's already happening. Younger generations are sneaking out and going underground to clubs and venues to let loose and have a good time.

The “Speakeasy” trend has begun. As it accelerates dramatically this coming year, it will provide numerous opportunities for OnTrendpreneurs® to create new night club scenes, sounds, and styles in the upcoming “Roaring '21s.”

YOUTH REVOLUTION



Can't go to college, can't get a job, can't move out of your parent's house, can't pay off your debts, can't buy a new car... can't, can't, can't. The American Dream, or the dream of any youngster around the world, has become a COVID nightmare.

As we have forecast, there will be strong anti-lockdown, go-out-and-play, speakeasy, Roaring '21 movements launched by 18-to 29-year-olds who view COVID as an "old person's disease."

Indeed, according to the scientific data, the recovery rate among 1- to-20-year-olds is 99.997 percent and, on average, the virus recovery rate is 99.7 percent. Those aged 65 and over suffering from pre-existing chronic health conditions are most vulnerable to die from the virus.

As we reported in the **Trends Journal**, a *Financial Times* study found a growing resentment among young workers toward older adults as the virus outbreak has led to various economic challenges that have hit younger generations the hardest.

For OnTrendpreneur® advertisers and fashion, entertainment, and product developers wishing to maximize sales to Gen Z and the younger millennial demographic, a new message, sound, and style to appeal to this target audience will reap generous rewards.

BOCA MIDNIGHT



It's "Boca Midnight" – the streets are empty long before the clock strikes midnight.

Back in the late 1960s, in an era of sex, drugs, and rock n' roll, there were advertisements run on national television saying, "[It's 10 PM – do you know where your children are?](#)"

Now, over 50 years later, the political dictate promoted by the media and enforced by the police is, "It's 10 PM. Close down your restaurant, get back in your house, don't go out and party, don't go out and play, no singing, no dancing."

Now, the new midnight is what the old folks do in Boca Raton, Florida do: go out early and get to bed by 10 o'clock. No nightlife.

Welcome to "Boca Midnight"!

CHURCH OF FREEDOM, PEACE & JUSTICE



In 2021, a new religion will be in the making. Members of all congregations, regardless of the gods and creeds they believe in, will be uniting under a universal religion of Freedom, Peace, and Justice.

From Vancouver to Frankfurt-an-derOder, thousands are taking to the streets throughout the world, rallying in the name of Freedom to protest against government lockdowns that have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions.

We forecast that rather than forming a political party, by masses uniting under a religious order, it will be difficult for governments to impose COVID restrictions that would be in violation of the Freedom to religiously assemble... as evidenced by the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Moreover, at a time when many are disenchanted with the entire political process, a universal chorus to let “Freedom, Peace & Justice” ring will be heard around the world as people rise to a higher spiritual order in words, deeds, and actions.

CHINA 2021: THE CHINESE CENTURY



The 20th century was the American century – the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business; the business of America is war.

While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure.

And while America and Europe have outsourced their manufacturing to China and developing nations to increase profit margins, China's dual circulation/self-sustaining economic model is directed toward keeping jobs and trade and profits within the nation, thus relying less on global trade.

It should be noted that U.S presidents, especially Barack Obama, used to brag about "American exceptionalism." As the nation declines financially, socially, physically, and mentally, that phrase is no longer repeated by its top politicians.

While the rest of the Western world is relocking down its economies, China, were the virus first broke out, is completely reopened.

Of all the world's major nations whose gross domestic products will be in decline, China stands alone in having its GDP rising into positive territory. Their economy is fully opened up, with its manufacturing rebounding, and the nation continues to expand its market share in products and presence in regions around the world... making it difficult for the U.S. and other western countries to catch up.

NEW WORLD DISORDER 2.0



Back in 2019, protests raged from South America to Africa, from the Middle East to Asia to Europe, with millions taking to the streets in numbers never seen before fighting against government control, corruption, income inequality, poverty, violence, and crime.

And politicians across the globe were fighting against angry mobs who wanted to overthrow them. Then, suddenly, when the COVID War broke out on the Chinese Lunar New Year 2020, governments locked down their nations and locked down the protests.

In 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.

In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will.

We forecast the protests will escalate into civil wars and civil wars will spread to regional wars, as citizens by the millions flee their nations for neighboring safe havens.

TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW



A Top Trend for 2021, the “Greatest Depression” has begun. It is in front of everyone’s eyes, but most can’t see it.

With the tech world thriving and equity markets brightly shining, most are blinded from seeing the devastation on Main Street.

Name the business, name the country. Since politicians launched the COVID War, the richest got richer and the biggest businesses got bigger as the John Does and Mom & Pops got poorer and weaker.

And who benefits? No greater proof from the sky-high equity markets, of which the 1 percent owns some 52 percent and the top 10 percent owns 88 percent in total, leaving peanuts for the plantation workers of Slavelandia.

Yes, the “Greatest Depression” has begun. But while most will feel it in their pocketbooks and hearts, politicians and Prostitutes will keep selling Slavelandians the line that “Happy Days are Here Again”... and it will keep getting happier.

NEVER, in modern history, have governments taken such draconian measures across much of the world to instantly shut down commerce as they did when they launched the COVID War this past winter.

And, as with their other wars that have no exist strategy and cause massive carnage, NEVER was heard a discouraging word... and the skies are not cloudy all day.

Remember? It was going to be a “V”-shaped recovery, then a “U” shape, then a “K” shape... and now a “COVID-Vaccine” recovery: “Stocks rise to fresh record highs as Pfizer begins UK vaccine rollout,” was today’s *CNBC* headline.

Yes, the markets are up as nations, states, and cities re-lock down Main Street. Despite entire sectors being prohibited to do business as usual – or no business at all – and some 10 million fewer U.S. jobs than before the COVID War began, equities keep flying high. Today, the Dow closed up 104 points, hitting a record high, and the S&P 500 closed above 3,700 for the first time.

GOLD & SILVER. Also boosting equity markets is the realization that Washington and the Banksters will keep pumping in more monetary methadone to artificially inflate deflating economies. Indeed, with more cheap money on the horizon, which will push the sagging dollar lower, gold prices continue to snap back from their recent lows, closing today at \$1,874 per ounce.

Silver was stagnant today but still trading around \$25 per ounce, up some \$10 when we had forecast its rise in mid-June. We maintain our forecast for gold and silver to continue to rise in 2021.

Dollar Down

After trading at a low of 90.48 on 4 December, the dollar’s value edged up to close at 90.81 and 90.86 on Monday this week, against a collection six other major currencies.

After marking a high of 102 in March, the dollar’s value relative to the six currencies is hovering near its 32-month low, losing 6 percent so far this year and about 1.2 percent since 29 November alone.

Last week, the Swiss franc climbed to its highest value against the dollar in almost six years. The euro topped \$1.21, its best showing against the dollar in 30 months. Britain’s pound set a 2020 high at \$1.35.

The buck also lost ground against Russia’s ruble and the Brazilian real.

The dollar was seen as a safe place to store value as the pandemic and economic shutdown roiled the global economy.

But China’s booming stock market and high-yield bond market, the prospect of Congress pouring additional bailout funds into the economy, and the U.S. Federal

Reserve's pledge to keep interest rates low for at least another year have given investors confidence to seek riskier venues offering higher returns.

Also, the promise of vaccines foretell a stronger global economy that will lure investments away from the safer dollar into higher-risk, higher-return venues, analysts predict.

We forecast a continuing dollar decline as more cheap money is pumped into the failing economic system, pushing it down as much as 20 percent next year.

BITCOIN. For millennials, Generation Z, and some big-time speculators, their new safe-haven asset, Bitcoin, while down from recent highs of just under \$20,000, is trading around \$18,500 per coin as we go to press... up some 50 percent since we had forecast its rise.

TREND FORECAST: *We reiterate our 27 June 2020 forecast, when Bitcoin was trading at \$8,974, that it would spike higher when it solidly broke above the \$10,000 mark.*

We also maintain our forecast that Bitcoin prices will continue to rise as governments, particularly China, go digital.

We also maintain our 27 October forecast:

Bitcoin will continue to rise, surpassing its all-time high. As the "Greatest Depression" worsens, more cheap money will be pumped into failing economies, thus pushing the value of currencies down... and inflation higher.

The lower currencies fall and the higher inflation rises, the greater the demand for safer-haven assets such as precious metals and Bitcoin.

OIL. Oil prices moved lower today as more states and nations imposed lockdowns for the Christmas holiday. While prices moved up recently, over Thanksgiving, U.S. gasoline prices dropped 8.4 percent, falling to its lowest level in 20 years. With holiday lockdowns in place, there are forecasts such as those from IHS Markit that demand will fall to numbers not witnessed since the 20th century.

OPEC+ Cuts Oil Deal

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia have agreed to raise oil production by 500,000 barrels a day, starting in January, despite a world oil market that remains weak.

In April, the group cut production by 9.7 million barrels a day, then adjusted the number to 7.7 million. The limit was to fall to 2.2 million next month.

Saudi Arabia pushed to extend the 7.7-million-barrel reduction through March; Russia wanted to stay with January's planned hike. The 500,000-barrel amount was a compromise.

The United Arab Emirates pressed for stricter production limits on OPEC members that had not cut production as much as they had pledged.

Although Chinese and, to a lesser extent, western countries' factory production is rising, air travel, cruise ship joyrides, and land transport are still lagging, weighing down a market already unable to readily absorb all the oil available.

The round of shutdowns and stay-at-home orders across Europe and U.S. amid a new wave of COVID infections also frustrated producers' plans to pump more oil.

The price of benchmark Brent crude oil has risen from the high \$30 range into the mid- to upper \$40s in recent weeks.

TREND FORECAST: *Given current market fundamentals, we maintain our forecast for oil prices not to rise much beyond the \$50 area in the coming months. The economic recovery remains weak in most of the world, air travel is not expected to resume in a meaningful way for at least a year, and new economic shutdowns will slow economic activity, allowing current oil production to bump into a demand ceiling once again.*

Given the economic recovery's uncertainties, oil could again fall back to \$40 or below range. Similarly, the Middle East's geopolitical uncertainties could spike prices overnight, for example, if Iran attacks Israel in revenge for Israel's 27 November murder of Iran's chief nuclear scientist.

WALL STREET UP, MAIN STREET DOWN



On 4 December, all four major U.S. stock indices set new record highs, driven by euphoria over the prospect of COVID vaccines' distribution and resumption of stimulus negotiations between Congress and the Trump administration.

The Dow gained 1 percent on the day, closing at 30,218.26. The NASDAQ rose 2.1 percent to 12,464.23. The Russell index bumped up 2 percent 1,882.14, and the S&P climbed 1.7 percent to close at 3,699.12.

It was the first time since January 2018 that the Dow, NASDAQ, Russell 2000 small-cap index, and S&P 500 set records on the same day, according to Dow Jones Market Data reported in the *Wall Street Journal*.

“As grim as the pandemic news may be over the next three or four months, the vaccine at the end of the tunnel will probably mean that the markets overlook that grim news,” George Ball, CEO of the Sanders Morris Harris investment firm, commented to the *Journal*.

Markets shrugged off November's weak jobs report as well as a recent survey showing consumer confidence ebbing. Investors drew encouragement from president-elect Joe Biden's selection of Janet Yellin to lead the U.S. Treasury Department, analysts agree.

Yellin has voiced support for continued economic stimulus and shown comfort with a continuation, at least for now, of the U.S. Federal Reserve's low interest rates.

In a 3 December *CNN* interview, Biden also said he will keep the economy open and will not order another shutdown.

TRENDPOST: As we keep noting, stock prices are floating on optimism and the Fed's cheap money. Increasingly, analysts are in alignment with us that a sharp market correction is on the way.

63 PERCENT OF AMERICANS LIVING ON THE EDGE



Sixty-three percent of Americans, including 64 percent of Millennials, are living from paycheck to paycheck since March and are unable to save any money, according to a survey of more than 2,000 adults commissioned by software designer Highland Solutions.

Forty-seven percent have burned through their emergency savings, and 82 percent admit they could not pay out of pocket for a \$500 emergency, such as medical treatment or a car repair.

Thirty-three percent have acquired at least one new credit card since February, and 25 percent of respondents have amassed more than \$10,000 in debt covering their month-to-month expenses.

Twenty-five percent of respondents also report their incomes are not stable, and two in three surveyed regret not having more in savings when the shutdown began.

About 60 percent report being more cautious in their spending, with 49 percent saying the reduced outlay stems from lost income due to the pandemic and shutdown.

Of those pinching pennies, 64 percent have cut back on eating out, 61 percent see fewer movies, 55 percent are adding less to their wardrobes, and 52 percent have cut back on travel.

Only 21 percent of those surveyed reported spending more, mostly on food and groceries.

Across 13 states, between 39.4 and 56.2 percent of Americans said they likely will face eviction before February 2021, the U.S. census bureau's second Household Pulse Survey found.

A majority of respondents to the Highland survey said it will take them six to 12 months to regain their financial footing after the pandemic subsidies, while some estimate their recovery will take up to two years.

TREND FORECAST: *Virtually unmentioned in the mainstream media is the daily economic and mental hardship tens of millions of people are suffering as a result of forcibly being drafted into the COVID War.*

Also, not mentioned is the hardship both residential and commercial landlords are suffering as tenants stop paying rent, while they must pay their mortgages and taxes.

We maintain our forecast for a continuing weakening of commercial and residential real estate in big cities through the winter months.

EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY COLLAPSES



The U.S. economy added 245,000 jobs in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, less than half the 638,000 gained in October and well below the 440,000 that economists had forecast.

Even the health care industry, in the midst of a pandemic, reported 527,000 fewer workers last month than were on payrolls last February.

Adding “discouraged” workers, defined as those who have not applied for work in the preceding four weeks, to the official number of jobless would hike the U.S. unemployment rate from the official 6.7 percent to an actual 8.5 percent.

Workers joining the ranks of the discouraged who have stopped looking for work caused the official rate to fall 0.2 percent in November from October’s 6.9-percent rate.

The number of long-term unemployed – people without work for 27 weeks or longer – soared from 385,000 in October to 3.9 million in November, or 36.9 percent of all unemployed Americans. Those persons, largely from the construction, entertainment, music, restaurant, and retail industries, are not counted among the monthly unemployment figures because they no longer receive unemployment benefits.

The number of government jobs shrank by about 100,000 as temporary census workers ended their tenures; retail jobs also disappeared as more brick-and-mortar stores closed, with 550,000 fewer retail workers on the job now than last February, according to Labor Department figures.

Warehousing and transportation added 145,000 jobs ahead of the holiday shopping season.

Although November marked a seventh consecutive month of net job gains, if November’s sluggish hiring pace continues, the U.S. will not regain the number of jobs it had at the end of 2019 until 2024, Daniel Zhao, senior economist at Glassdoor, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

“Sentiment is largely negative because we know that we’re heading into a dark winter,” he added.

The most recent unemployment figures were collected before new lockdowns were implemented in California and Illinois, among other states re-imposing restrictions on business and movement.

Even before the new strictures, 14.8 million workers reported they were unable to work or had lost hours during the preceding four weeks because of mandated economic shutdowns.

Restaurant bookings showed a sharp decline later in November compared to earlier, according to the website OpenTable; the number of wage workers at

retailers and restaurants also slipped during the month, according to HomeBase, which makes scheduling software.

As of 16 November, workers making less than \$27,000 a year have lost 19.2 percent of jobs that existed in January, according to data kept by Harvard and Brown universities. Workers earning \$27,000 to \$60,000 have seen 4.7 percent of their jobs lost. Employees collecting more than \$60,000 have seen 0.2-percent job growth.

TRENDPOST: *As economic conditions worsen, crime rates such as homicides will rise, as will suicides, as people sink hopelessly into masked and isolated depression, seeing no hope for a brighter future.*

Already unemployed, deep in debt, no hope for a college education, and even if getting one, living-wage job opportunities will be scant.

INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS STILL SINKING



October sales at U.S. restaurants declined for the first month since the economic recovery began last spring, according to data amassed by the U.S. census bureau.

“October’s sales decline is a troubling sign for the industry, as the month likely included some of the last opportunities for outdoor dining in many parts of the country,” the National Restaurant Association (NRA) wrote in a statement citing the census bureau’s data.

“Factoring in indoor dining restrictions currently being reimposed in some jurisdictions, it becomes clear that the winter months will represent” a threat to the survival of eateries that depend on indoor service, the statement said.

“We continue to support aggressive steps to support... public health,” NRA president Tom Bené wrote in a 17 November letter to the National Governors Association. “But there is an unfounded impression that restaurants are part of the problem and we are suffering as a result of inconsistent, restrictive mandates. Tens of thousands of additional restaurant bankruptcies – and millions of lost jobs – are now more likely, while the science remains inconclusive on whether any health benefits will accrue.”

TRENDPOST: *As we have been reporting, the rules made up regarding not wearing a mask when you sit down down and eat but being forced to put one on when standing up (whether eating inside or out) and capacity limitations and social distancing distances are being enforced on businesses despite a scintilla of scientific evidence to support them.*

COVID War rules waged upon small business owners by government-imposed draconian mandates will wreak economic and emotional devastation from which many will never recover.

HOLIDAY SALES OFF TO LACKLUSTER START



From Thanksgiving through Cyber Monday, U. S. shoppers spent 14 percent less than they did in 2019, the National Retail Federation (NRF) reported.

Shoppers spent an average of \$312 each over the five-day stretch, about the same as in 2018. They numbered 186.4 million, down slightly from the 189.6 million who opened their wallets a year earlier.

On Black Friday, foot traffic in stores was 37 percent below last year's volume, while the number of online shoppers rose 8 percent and topped 100 million.

Cyber Monday's sales rose more than 15 percent above last year's volume, reaching \$10.8 billion to mark the richest online shopping day in U.S. history, Adobe Analytics reported.

On Thanksgiving Day itself, in-store shoppers were 55 percent fewer than last year, in part because many stores that had been open on Thanksgiving were closed this year.

Retailers expected the holiday weekend's shopping volume to fall below last year's total because more shoppers had taken advantage of early sales, NRF president Mathew Shay told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Fifty-five percent of shoppers surveyed over the holiday weekend said the virus pandemic would not affect their shopping plans.

The NRF has predicted that overall holiday sales' dollar volume will rise between 3.6 and 5.2 percent above last year.

TREND FORECAST: *We believe the NRF predictions are overstated, since holiday travel will be down nearly 70 percent this year, and nations and states are imposing strict capacity limitations for households. Furthermore, once upon a time not too long ago, there used to be business holiday parties where people exchanged gifts and enjoyed celebrating Christmas spirit.*

ABSENT HOLIDAY TRAVELERS DEAL HOTEL INDUSTRY ANOTHER BLOW



Sixty-nine percent of Americans will not travel during the December holiday season, the *Morning Consult* reported in a new survey.

Only 32 percent of respondents said they had taken an overnight vacation or any kind of leisure trip since March, and 44 percent said their next stay in a hotel is a year or more away. Only 8 percent plan a business trip in the next six months.

The December holiday season is the hotel industry's most intensely busy time but, this year, more than half of all hotel rooms nationwide are likely to remain empty.

The dire season ahead is another reason why Congress needs to provide targeted aid to the industry, said Chip Rogers, CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), in a statement from the association.

"With a dramatic decline expected for holiday travel, it is all the more important that Congress pass a relief bill now," he said. "We cannot afford to wait until the next Congress is sworn in for relief. [Our members] need help now."

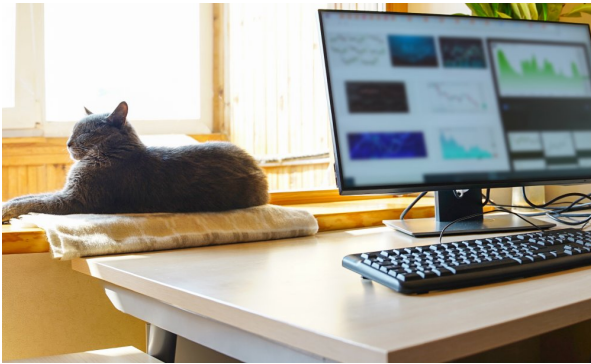
The AHLA's most recent member survey found:

- "71 percent of U.S. inns say they can last no more than six months at current occupancy rates without government aid;
- 34 percent say they will permanently close within three months without supports;
- 82 percent of hoteliers report being unable to win additional debt relief or concessions from creditors;
- 59 percent of hotel owners say they are in danger of losing their properties to foreclosure."

TREND FORECAST: 2020 is the year the world changed. That we are writing about hundreds of millions of people across the globe canceling holiday travel plans, whether to meet with family or take a vacation, is a profoundly horrific scenario.

What is being imposed on humanity by politicians to fight their COVID War – which has a 99.8 percent recovery rate and predominantly a threat to the elderly and those suffering from chronic pre-existing health conditions – is inhuman.

OFFICE WORKERS STAY HOME



Among 2,500 office buildings in 10 large U.S. cities, about 25 percent of workers had returned as of 18 November, reported Kastle Systems, a security firm that tracks access card swipes in those buildings.

The rate has dipped from October's mark of 27 percent but remains comfortably above the 15 percent recorded in April. However, not all cities are doing so well.

San Francisco's return rate is 13.4 percent as of 18 November; New York City's is 15.9 percent, Kastle has calculated.

"There's a huge headwind against company executives to strongly push their employee base to come back to work," Douglas Linde, president of landlord Boston Properties, said in a *Wall Street Journal* interview.

The pressures include rising rates of COVID infections in cities and the discovery that employees can not only be productive working at home, but they also can move to cheaper, more spacious homes farther from urban centers.

Prospective tenants' online searches for new office space in October was only 13 percent of what they had been in January 2018, the VTS Office Demand Index showed.

The absence of commuters also is devastating downtown economic ecosystems, figures show.

San Francisco apartment rental rates have fallen 20 percent from their March peak; public transit systems in Boston; New York; San Francisco; and Washington, DC report collectively losing billions of dollars in fares compared to pre-pandemic days.

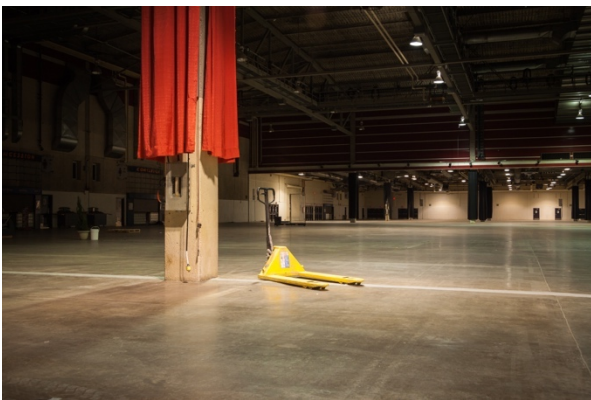
Restaurants feel travelers' absence perhaps most keenly.

Oceania, a Manhattan seafood restaurant, is usually booked at this time of year with holiday parties, business lunches, and tourists visiting the city to see Rockefeller Center and its iconic holiday tree. This year, business is 10 to 15 percent of what it was a year ago, managing director Paul McLaughlin told the *Journal*.

TRENDPOST: *Again, the evidence of the lockdowns and the fear and hysteria spread throughout society is proving its economic and emotional devastation throughout sectors of society. With more people working from home and afraid to commute, we maintain our forecast of declining real estate in both the commercial and apartment rental sectors of major cities.*

And, as these cities go dark, crime rates will dramatically rise, putting more fear into the general public, thus continuing their move to suburbs and ex-burbs to escape the threats of violence, increasing homeless populations, and the mentally ill aimlessly wandering the streets.

CONVENTION HALLS EMPTY AND LOSING MONEY



A time without conventions to host is the right time to make over convention spaces.

The city of Indianapolis is borrowing \$155 million to revamp its Indiana Convention Center to accommodate the 2026 annual meeting of the American Dental Association.

After upgrading its air filtration and cleaning systems this year, the center lured six basketball tournaments and a candy exposition from neighboring Chicago, where conventions remain banned.

“We see convention tourism racing back in 2023,” Chris Gahl, senior vice-president of Visit Indy, said to *The New York Times*. In the home of Memorial Day’s Indianapolis 500 race, “When the green flag drops, we’re going to be on the competitive edge.”

In 2016, U.S. events such as the dentists’ convention numbered more than 250,000 and drew 84.7 million visitors who spent \$110.4 billion in host locales, according to the Events Industry Council.

Convention centers must regularly expand or remodel to outshine competitors to draw events. But the pandemic and economic shutdown have turned convention centers into echo chambers.

Milwaukee’s Wisconsin Center event complex flirted with insolvency earlier this year but has since borrowed \$270 million to remake its event complex, necessary to keep pace with competitors in St. Louis, Nashville, and Indianapolis, Marty Brooks, the center’s CEO, explained to the *Times*.

Similarly, the state of Georgia budgeted \$70 million to fund an expansion of the exhibition hall at Savannah’s convention center; the city of Cleveland is looking for \$30 million to expand and upgrade its Huntington Convention Center; and Terre Haute’s county is planning a \$20-million hotel next to a \$32-million convention complex still under construction – all under the worst economic conditions in 90 years.

These are all-in bets in a zero-sum gain in which one city’s gain is necessarily another’s loss.

If a spiffed-up center fails to draw a certain number of high-paying events, taxpayers will be left holding the debt the center incurred to improve itself, explained Heywood Sanders, a University of Texas professor who studies convention centers’ role in urban renewal, in a *Times* interview.

“You’ve made a very large bet in an environment of enormous risk and uncertainty,” he said. “Once you’ve placed it, you can’t undo it.”

TRENDPOST: *The banning of trade shows and conventions across the globe has not only devastated the hospitality and restaurants sectors dependent upon them... it has also destroyed supporting businesses that supply products and services. Artists, musicians, entertainers, and other professionals and support staff who depend on convention center activity have also been obliterated by the draconian lockdown measures. Yet, this is barely reported in the mainstream media.*

And, as noted, the less convention and trade show business, the lower the tax revenues for already indebted cities.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS



IMF: MORE MONEY INJECTIONS NEEDED. The world's economy is resilient enough to recover from the global economic shutdown at a brisk pace if policymakers act quickly and inject more money into the financial infrastructure, digital technology, and environmental safeguards, Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said on 2 December at the *Financial Times'* Global Banking Summit.

The world is “desperate for that because productivity has to go up, investment has to go up,” she said, noting that the shutdown will cost the world's economy \$28 trillion in productivity through 2025. In tourism alone, 120 million jobs around the world have been lost, she said.

“We have to be decisive, and we have to act together,” she stressed. “We are in a resilient place but we cannot take financial stability for granted.”

The same decisiveness is needed in confronting the debt crisis the shutdown has wrought among emerging economies, Georgieva emphasized.

“Our advice is to confront it,” she said. “Act decisively on debt restructuring and... have resolution mechanisms in place.”

TREND FORECAST: Again, the economic future is certain. The Banksters are committed to injecting massive amounts of digital money backed by nothing and printed on nothing into failing economies. By artificially propping them up, equity markets will continue to rise and economies will moderately rebound, providing a New ABnormal illusion that “Happy Days are here again”... while the lives of the plantation workers of Slavelandia sink deeper into hardship and despair.

EU BANKS UNPREPARED FOR LOOMING WAVE OF BAD LOANS, SAYS ECB.

Many of Europe’s major banks are failing to prepare adequately for an expected wave of loans that will default because of the pandemic and economic shutdown, Andrea Enria, head of the supervisory board of the European Central Bank (ECB), said in remarks at the *Financial Times*’ Global Banking Summit on 2 December.

Several of the 117 banks the ECB his office supervises are “all over the place” in preparing for a significant number of loans to go bad, Enria said, causing his office “concern.”

The ECB is sending what Enria called “a ‘Dear CEO’ letter to banks under our supervision in which we will highlight some issues we want them to address in terms of their approach to credit risk.”

In a worst-case scenario the bank has modeled, Europe’s banks could face an extra €1.4 trillion in bad debts, sending the banks over a “cliff edge” with sour loans that could “clog their balance sheets and leave them unable to support [Europe’s economic] recovery,” he said.

In March, the ECB ordered commercial banks to stop issuing stock dividends and buying back their own shares. Banks’ prudence in setting aside enough capital to cover the expected number of new bad loans will factor in supervisors’ decisions whether to lift those bans, Enria said.

TREND FORECAST: The above article is a rarity. The looming loan defaults building across the globe have been marginalized by the mainstream business media and ignored by the political establishment. With millions of businesses going out of business and hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods destroyed, defaults on loans will sharply escalate next year.

Thus, we forecast when the “Greatest Depression” hits, banks will not have the funds to cover their losses.

In a repeat of the Panic of '08, failing banks will again be deemed “Too Big to Fail” by the government and will be bailed out by the central bank partners and American taxpayers. It should be noted that following the Panic of '08, at least \$29 trillion was spent to bail out the Bigs, according the Levy Institute.

OECD CUTS FORECASTS: SEES NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has cut its global growth forecasts for 2021.

The world’s economy will expand 4.2 percent next year after contracting by the same amount this year, making 2020 a wash in terms of growth, the group foresees.

The OECD had forecast 5 percent growth next year but pared back its outlook as the COVID virus’s resurgence prompted new business shutdowns and stay-at-home orders.

The OECD also trimmed its 2021 forecast for Europe from 5.1 percent to 3.6 percent and its U.S. prediction from 4 percent to 3.2.

It left its outlook for China unchanged at 8 percent.

The overall global economy will be emerging from the shutdown’s impacts by late 2021 because of widespread vaccine distribution, the OECD says, although it sees any recovery as uneven.

At that time, China’s economy will be 9.7 percent bigger than it was in 2019’s final quarter, the group expects.

Britain’s economy will be 6 percent smaller at the end of 2021 than it was at the end of 2019, in the OECD’s view.

Among major economies, only Argentina’s will fare worse than Britain’s, with an 8-percent shrinkage, according to the forecast.

The U.K.’s economy will contract 11.2 percent this year, then grow 4.2 percent in 2021 and 4.1 percent in 2022, the OECD predicts. It called on the government and

the Bank of England to maintain support programs for businesses and households until a recovery is firmly under way.

Also, if Britain fails to ink a trade agreement with the European Union this month, the failure would “entail serious additional economic disturbances in the short term and have a strongly negative effect on trade, productivity, and jobs in the longer term,” the OECD warned.

Globally, a third of all new economic growth in the next year will belong to China, the OECD foresees. The U.S. will return to pre-pandemic GDP levels before 2022, while Europe’s GDP will be 3 percent smaller than at the end of 2019.

The economies of India and South Africa, like those of Argentina and Britain, will have notably smaller economies a year from now than last year. Again, as forecast, 2021 marks a great reset and realignment of the global economy.

EUROPE BECOMES CHINA’S TOP TRADING PARTNER. During the first six months of this year, the value of trade between China and the European Union rose 2.6 percent to €328.7 billion, according to Eurostat, the E.U.’s statistical agency.

The E.U.’s commerce with China through that period topped the U.S.’s China trade by €5.2 billion, or about \$6.16 billion, vaulting the E.U. to the position of China’s top trading partner for the first time.

China also gave Europe trade considerations and material support as E.U. members struggled to recover from the pandemic and economic shutdown.

The deeper, broader alliance between China and Europe is reaching beyond trade.

On 30 November, officials from China, Germany, and the E.U. held a virtual summit, during which they pledged mutual cooperation on a range of issues.

The leaders agreed to establish a China-E.U. High Level Environment and Climate Dialog and a China-E.U. High Level Digital Cooperation Dialog, formalizing partnerships related to green and digital technologies.

The varied partnerships focus on the interests that China and Europe have in common, rather than on their geopolitical differences, the *Chinese Global Times*

newspaper said, adding that the pacts will overcome trade tensions “created by an increasingly destructive U.S. government.”

TREND FORECAST: *The proof is in the numbers. As America goes down, China keeps rising. Just as Gerald Celente had forecast for years, and is now one of our Top Trends for 2021, the 20th century was the American century, the 21st century will be China’s.*

And, while most major economies will register negative GDP in 2020, China’s economy should grow another 5 to 6 percent this current quarter and close the year with a 12-month growth rate of 2 percent.

ASIAN BUSES & SUBWAYS BACK TO NORMAL VOLUME. In New York City, subway riders now number about 70 percent fewer than a year earlier, according to the city’s Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Italian cities reopened their public transit systems as summer gave way to fall; Milan’s buses were carrying 55 percent of their capacity in October, only to find that buses and subways become centers for spreading the virus.

Getting it Right

Asian cities can offer a lesson in what “getting it right” looks like.

Buses and subways in many Asian cities such as Seoul and Shanghai are carrying almost as many passengers as before the pandemic arrived, a report by the *Wall Street Journal* found, while the COVID virus remains at bay in those locales.

Universal mask mandates for passengers and constant cleaning of carriages has kept public transport facilities from being venues for COVID contagion, transit officials in those cities said.

In Beijing and Shanghai, subway stations are disinfected at least five times every day, more at stops closer to hospitals and other key centers.

Keeping public transport operating safely has been key to cities’ economic recovery, the *Journal* noted.

COVID’S IMPACT UNKNOWABLE, SAYS CANADIAN FINANCE MINISTER.

Discussing the Canadian government’s economic rescue plan, which includes \$100 billion in stimulus spending over three years and running a \$381.6-billion

deficit this year, finance minister Chrystia Freeland said she could not rule out more spending if needed because economists have been “consistently wrong” about the financial impact of the pandemic and shutdown.

“People underestimated the initial impact of the coronavirus on the economy,” she said in a 4 December interview quoted by *BNN Bloomberg*. “Then they underestimated how strong the recovery would be in the summer and... people have underestimated what the impact of the second wave of the virus would be.”

“We all need to be very humble and very aware... that there’s huge uncertainty out there,” she said.

Critics have said the government’s relief measures so far lack details of how money will be spent. Freeland did not discuss specifics but promised “if we do spot holes in the programs, we’ll do what we can to fix them” as part of the government’s plan to create a “robust” support net to carry households and businesses through until summer when vaccines become widely available.

“We’re trying to create a bridge for Canadian businesses to that endpoint, which is now in sight,” she said.

ONTARIO RESTRICTIONS MAY “DECIMATE” RETAILERS, CEO WARNS.

A decision by Ontario’s provincial government to shut down “non-essential” retailers could “decimate” the province’s retail industry, David Bensadoun, CEO of the Aldo Group footwear company, warned in a 3 December interview with *BNN Bloomberg*.

In an open letter published last week, Aldo and more than 45 other companies called on Ontario premier Doug Ford to open all stores in the province immediately, saying that leaving most stores shut risks mass business failures and is ineffective in preventing the spread of the COVID virus.

“It’s important for the government of Ontario not to be picking... which retailers should survive and which should die,” Bensadoun said.

“We’re going to decimate Canadian retail,” he added. “When we lock down stores, we shift sales to online and online gets gobbled up by Amazon. We’re writing our own ticket to the morgue for Canadian-based retail.”

“We’re not asking for subsidies,” he emphasized. “We’re just asking for our doors to be open.”

TORONTO HOUSING MARKET BOOMS. In October, 8,766 homes were sold in Canada's largest city, 24.3 percent more than in October 2019, but 17 percent fewer than in September this year, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board wrote in its 3 December monthly report.

The average sale price was \$955,615, up 13.3 percent year over year but dipping slightly from October's average of \$968,318, the board said.

Detached homes sold best, particularly in Toronto's suburbs, where sales of stand-alone houses jumped 33.6 percent above those in October 2019.

Condo sales barely budged, gaining just 0.8 percent on those a year earlier, with the average sale price slipping 3 percent to \$640,208.

The supply and demand in the metro area's condo market is "more balanced than in previous years" but "this may be a short-term phenomenon," Jason Mercer, the board's chief market analyst, wrote in a press announcement accompanying the sales report.

"Once we move into the post-COVID period, we will start to see a resumption of population growth, both from immigration and a return of non-permanent residents," Mercer noted. "This will lead to an increase in demand" for condos.

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



HOLIDAY TRAVEL DEMAND IS WEAK, AIRLINES SAY. After air travel picked up earlier in this quarter, airline bookings weakened before Thanksgiving and have not recovered in what is traditionally one of the busiest periods for air travel, American Airlines said in a 4 December regulatory filing reported by *Bloomberg*.

Without the holiday sales bump, the airline will operate at the high end of its estimated daily cash burn of \$25 million to \$30 million, American reported.

Still, American will enter 2021 with about \$14 billion in liquidity, more than a year's worth of cash at its estimated burn rate.

American's glum update reflected Delta Airlines' 3 December statement that it would burn through more cash than expected this quarter due to faltering sales.

Airline travel spiked over the Thanksgiving holiday, but still only reached about 40 percent of last year's level before sinking again.

American's share price rose 1.6 percent to \$16.35 as Friday's trading began. Delta's stock closed last week at \$42.36, down a fraction.

Airline stocks have rallied recently on hopes that a new round of federal aid will carry the companies until a vaccine is widely distributed and returns air travel to consistently higher volumes.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES WARNS 6,800 WORKERS OF LAYOFFS AHEAD. The employees are slated to be lopped from the payroll this spring if business conditions fail to improve, the carrier warned.

The layoffs would be the first in Southwest's 50-year history.

The cuts target 2,551 ground crew members, 1,176 customer service staff, 1,500 flight attendants, and 1,221 pilots.

If needed, the layoffs will occur on 15 March and 1 April 2021, the airline said in the statement announcing the move.

Southwest has asked workers to accept a 10-percent pay cut to avoid the layoffs. To date, the unions representing the airline's meteorologists and dispatchers have agreed.

Southwest, known as one of the industry's most profitable airlines, lost \$2.75 billion during 2020's first six months, laying a foundation for its first-ever annual loss.

U.S. airlines received \$25 billion in federal bailouts on the condition that no employees would be laid off through September. On 1 October, American and United airlines dumped 32,000 workers between them.

Delta Airlines avoided layoffs by negotiating buyout deals with some workers and compensation cuts for pilots.

SEATTLE BUSINESS CLOSURES RISING AGAIN. In April, 4,583 Seattle-area businesses were closed because of the virus-imposed economic shutdown, the review website Yelp reported. By 10 July, almost half had reopened, leaving 2,485 still closed.

However, by 31 August the number of closures jumped back up to 3,081, with 59 percent being permanent, Yelp said.

The Seattle metro area lost about 47,000 jobs during the shutdown and will end the year still 20,000 jobs short of last year's number, according to Oxford Economics and CoStar, a commercial real estate data firm.

MORE THAN 600 CONNECTICUT RESTAURANTS ARE GONE. The businesses have either closed permanently or not set a date to reopen and more will exit before spring, said Scott Dolch, executive director of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, in a statement last week.

He based the figure on his conversations with five of the state's major food distributors, who have lost accounts over the past eight months.

CRUISE SHIPS WILL STAY IN PORT LONGER. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines will offer no voyages in December, as it had planned, and instead has extended its hiatus through February. Ships sailing from Australia will stay docked until May.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, the world's largest cruise line, has pushed back trips until April; Carnival Cruise Line has delayed some sailings from U.S. ports until November and canceled some European cruises because of the continent's new wave of COVID cases and differing mandates and restrictions from port to port.

Some ships have been in port for more than a year, ever since Carnival's Diamond Princess liner hosted a COVID outbreak that resulted in more than 700 cases.

FRANCESCA'S IS LATEST RETAILER TO GO BANKRUPT. The 558-store women's fashion chain, founded in 1999, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Delaware on 3 December.

Tiger Finance, which holds a portion of the company's debt, is providing \$25 million in interim financing as Francesca's seeks a buyer for the business, including its brick-and-mortar sites.

TerraMar Capital, a private equity firm, has made an initial bid through the court-supervised sale process.

"The financing provided by Tiger will enable Francesca's to pursue a sale process that will allow us continue to focus on our omni-channel strategies, optimize our boutique fleet, broaden our customer reach with brand extensions and drive sustainable, profitable growth," Andrew Clarke, Francesca's CEO, said in a statement.

The company still plans to close 140 stores, as it announced earlier this fall, and it is attempting to renegotiate leases for the rest of its locations. It may close additional stores, the statement noted.

3M LOPS 2,900 JOBS. The St. Paul-based manufacturer of hundreds of products will drop 2,900 workers as the shutdown's switch to a work-at-home economy has cut demand for Scotch tape, Post-It stickies, and other office products, the company said in a statement announcing the cuts.

Sales of 3M's electronic and aerospace products also have fallen.

Overall, 3M's sales for the first nine months of this year slipped 1.8 percent below those of the same period in 2019.

EVRAZ LAYS OFF 500 STEELWORKERS. Western Canada's largest steel company is sending 500 workers home later this month when work runs out at its plant in Regina, Saskatchewan.

The plant makes tubular goods, including pipe for the slumping oil and gas industry.

The company produced 4.4 percent less raw steel in the third quarter, while sales slid 9.5 percent, the company said in an e-mail to *BNN Bloomberg*.

The company laid off workers in its Alberta plant earlier this fall.

The world's economic shutdown slashed global demand for steel products and left a glut of finished products in Chinese plants, *Bloomberg* noted.

BRIDESIDE SHUTS DOWN. The wedding outfitter, doing business mostly online but also in showrooms in Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, and New York, sent an e-mail to customers this month saying the company's "chapter has come to an end" after two-thirds of its weddings were canceled.

The company raised \$7 million last year from investors led by Beringea LLC. Beringea told the *Wall Street Journal* that Brideside is changing its management. Brideside itself has not responded to questions.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS by *Gregory Mannarino*

THE U.S. DOLLAR IS IN FREE FALL



Year to date, the U.S. dollar has lost over 8 percent of its value versus other major world currencies. And this is just the beginning. By design, I expect the dollar to continue its death spiral.

This past Friday, the U.S. stock market hit a trifecta of records: the Dow, the S&P 500, and the NASDAQ each hit all-time record new highs.

The fact that the stock market continues to go higher, hitting record high after record high, despite the grim reality that the U.S. economy is in literal collapse,

should come as no surprise if you've been following my articles in the **Trends Journal**. I predicted this, and it's happening.

I also forecasted the dollar meltdown right here in the **Trends Journal**. The “by design” phenomenon of the falling dollar is having a profound effect on the stock market. Understanding that it takes more weaker dollars, which are losing purchasing power, to buy anything should allow you to understand the illusion being created: the stock market is now priced in more deflated dollars.

The effect of deflated dollars in the market has created an inflated stock market priced in deflated dollars. Deflated dollars are also helping to cause another effect: the selling of treasuries. The U.S. 10-year note yield has gone up dramatically as of late, hitting 0.97 percent just this past Friday, and here, again, the effect on the stock market is simple: When capital leaves the debt market, it looks for places to go. The current “risk-on” environment drives capital that is leaving the debt market into the stock market, further inflating it.

The stock market is expecting, and will get, a massive influx of deflating dollars moving forward, and, again, the effect of this is simple: more record highs for the market as the economy melts down.

It is expected the Federal Reserve will continue to increase its asset purchases. The Fed makes these purchases with cash miraculously created out of thin air. Creating cash out of thin air and buying assets with it is precisely how the Fed's balance sheet went from \$4.1 trillion from this past March to \$7.3 trillion today. During this period, the stock market has virtually gone straight up.

The Federal Reserve has one objective: to inflate its balance sheet and become the lender and buyer of last resort. The Fed's objective allows it to fulfill its end game to BUY IT ALL with the dollar existing now in its current form.

The Federal Reserve has every intention of “phasing out” the dollar in its current form; to “inflate out of it.” Inflating out of the dollar in its current form is by design, making its way into a new dollar, which will be 100 percent digital and backed by nothing. Moreover, a new, yet further deflated digital dollar.

How do you like them apples?

by Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM *by Bradley J. Steiner*

In Memoriam:

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved friend, Bradley J. Steiner.

We are truly heartbroken over this. It happened so suddenly.

In his legacy, we are fighting the “Brad Steiner fight” – the good fight. The fight for each person to be the person they want to be and to protect themselves when their lives are being viciously threatened by enemies of Freedom, Peace, and Justice.

May his soul rest in peace.

GIVE NO QUARTER!



It simply cannot be emphasized often or strongly enough that mindset (i.e. proper mental conditioning) is the single most critical factor for preparing to engage in and prevail in close combat.

And physical self-defense against dangerous, determined felons who literally thrive on violence and the tormenting of those whom they can dominate and victimize is close combat; make no mistake about it. It is war; it bears no relation to sporting competition, beautiful classical esthetics, or the spectacular showmanship that entertains us on the silver screen and on TV.

I came to the conclusion many years ago that mental conditioning for violent combat constituted 90% of what is required in order to be thoroughly prepared to meet, beat, and utterly defeat opponents in a defensive emergency. Not that techniques and tactics are not crucial; they certainly are.

Mindset, however, may be compared to the engine of a vehicle – while techniques and tactics may be compared to its body and interior. With an engine only, you have all of the power, but unless you also have the body of the vehicle, there is nothing to be powered. You need both. I agree that the comparison is not perfect; but it makes the point.

And, I can tell you, speaking from the experience of approximately 65 years total involvement in, study of, training in, and intensive research of armed and unarmed combat disciplines, I have known of many instances when “martial arts trained” individuals with relatively high levels of skill failed to defend themselves; and when untrained persons who, often simply by the grace of God and a healthy sense of self-worth and righteous indignation, successfully thwarted violent attacks. These latter people possessed mindset!

Healthy self-worth and powerful righteous indignation. Not the whole package, but an awful lot that is required cerebrally in order to acquit yourself when targeted by street scum.

Ideally, you need more than self-worth. You need to understand and to feel the cold, vicious hatred for predatory filth that overrides the flight impulse when the fight-or-flight phenomenon takes hold of you, and that presses you to ATTACK. To go after that mugger, rapist, home invader, carjacker, troublemaker, bully, thug, or terrorist with no more “mercy” or “compassion” than you would show the polio virus, you need to view him (or “it” as I see it) as having no value or justification for existing, at all.

This is not easy for decent people to accept. Especially those who have had no experience whatever with serious violence, and who – properly – prefer to avoid violence and to deal rationally and peacefully with others. It is the mindset and attitude of the seasoned warrior; the person who, in battle, has seen the result of what the enemy can and will do, and who, after seeing it, sets his mind so that he will never allow it to happen to himself or to his buddies so long as he can move and breathe.

Many years ago, when I taught seminars and classes in the Bronx, I had numerous females who were attendees. Most were simply “interested in learning some self-defense.” Some of these ladies were good students.

But the very best were those women who had suffered violence and who knew what violent, predatory garbage would and could do to them. These ladies swore that they would die killing any man who ever tried to violate them again, if necessary! That was a healthy attitude, and a most understandable decision. These women learned techniques and tactics very well and needed little encouragement in adopting a “kill or be killed” mindset. And, like to hear it or not, THAT is the mindset you need.

Question: *“But what about mild attacks and people who are not serious assailants?”*

Answer: If you are equipped with the ability to read the minds and decipher the intentions and capabilities of violent assailants, I congratulate you. Go ahead and be gentle and understanding with the fellow or fellows who jump you, but who you can tell have no real intention to injure you severely – or kill you. Personally, I have no such ability, and I have never met anyone else who had it, either.

My doctrine is clear: Whenever you are set upon by a violent offender, you must consider ONLY your safety, defense, well-being, survival, and escape. I have never met anyone who ever described the attack that he or she suffered as having been perpetrated by someone who was not a “serious assailant.” Not even once.

Rational, decent human beings – i.e. real human beings – never provoke physical violence, choose to physically harm anyone unless for self-defense, or get any “kick” out of “throwing down” or out of using a deadly weapon against another person. Individuals who do live that way, in my opinion, lack the brains and judgement of animals who, unlike them, become violent only when threatened.

Violence is nothing to be played with. It is justifiable only in self-defense (which, of course, includes the defense of others), and only against those who initiate violence.

When it is needed for its righteous purpose, it must be brought into play savagely, instantly, mercilessly, furiously, and it must be continued relentlessly until the innocent life or lives that have been threatened are safe.

Being abnormal for all of you who are “normal,” it is not surprising that it takes a real adjustment mentally before your technical aspects of violent self-defense have behind them the reliable, every-ready “engine” – i.e. the mindset – that will insure their immediate and full-power employment in any emergency.

Here’s a tip I have always emphasized when conducting group classes and private lessons:

WHEN LEARNING AND TRAINING IN UNARMED AND ARMED COMBAT SKILLS FOR SELF- DEFENSE, REMEMBER WHAT WILL BE AT STAKE IF, GOD FORBID, YOU EVER HAVE TO EMPLOY YOUR TRAINING.

The attacker who threatens your life and well-being is threatening your spouse, your children, your parents, your siblings, your friends... all who know, care for, and love you – and whom you love. Summon the brutal, vicious savage within to protect them as well as you, if ever some crawling SOB/street-garbage decides to victimize you!

Look at it this way: You can rip this scumbag limb from limb or let him devastate all who are dear to you, as well as yourself.

GO TO WAR! GIVE NO QUARTER!

by Bradley J. Steiner

2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT

NO LOCKDOWN: SWEDEN’S APPROACH IS WORKING



In March, when Sweden's government, led by chief epidemiologist Anders Tegnell, chose to not close down the economy and impose harsh restrictions on individual's freedoms to deal with the virus, it was severely criticized worldwide.

Sweden's neighbors, Denmark and Norway, were particularly loud in their condemnation.

As the *BBC* reported on 29 May, "Denmark and Norway exclude Sweden from tourism."

But some eight months later, on 27 November, Søren Riis Paludan, a leading Danish professor of biomedicine, stated, "The Swedish approach taught us what to do and what not to do in other Nordic countries... Now we don't have to go into lockdown but know where to be more careful, particularly with the elderly."

Despite clear evidence that Sweden has managed to keep its citizens safer than Spain, France, Italy, the U.K., and many other western European countries, without destroying millions of businesses, lives, livelihood and inflicting the psychological pain of isolation among its people... the mainstream media keeps selling the outright lie that Sweden's decision to not lock down has been a deadly failure.

Examples:

Why the Swedish Model for Fighting COVID-19 is a Disaster
Sweden's unique approach to the pandemic has drawn interest from other countries. But the data are clear: it's largely been a failure

— *Time Magazine*, 14 October

Has Sweden's Coronavirus Strategy Failed?

Swedish authorities believed their approach to coronavirus would help the country in the long run. But it's being rocked by the second wave

— *Washington Post*, 18 November

Both the *Time* and *Washington Post* headlines are misleading. As Professor Paluden added to his statement recently:

"Based on Swedish data, we learned that keeping schools open does not contribute to spreading the virus... There are certain groups that need to be protected, which now means we have a society that is relatively open save some restrictions on how many people can gather."

Helping to make the case of Sweden's success by not locking down, the British Medical Journal (BMJ) published an article on 27 November titled, "Covid-19: What Sweden taught Scandinavia for the second wave."

Among the article's key points:

- "Sweden's 'soft' approach meant keeping bars, restaurants, and schools (for pupils up to the age of 16) open and giving only recommendations to wash hands, maintain social distance, and keep gatherings to under 50 people. This is in marked contrast to neighboring nations Denmark, Norway, and Finland, that went swiftly into lockdown."
- "Sweden had relatively low infection rates despite no mandatory lockdown. With a second wave sweeping through Europe and countries struggling to balance economic recovery with ongoing pandemic measures, Scandinavia as a whole seems to be taking the lessons of Sweden to heart."
- "Although total mortality is higher than in the rest of Scandinavia, Sweden's current rates are relatively low, with an average of only three fatalities as a day compared with 100 a day in early April. Nationally, new intensive care unit intake averaged around two a day in October, compared with a peak of 40-50 a day between late March and early April."
- "These falls are partly due to improved treatment protocols in Swedish hospitals... Thomas Linde, of the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, said at a press conference that the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care units was still relatively small at about 15% of capacity."

Despite the hard data in the *BMJ* article showing Sweden's ability to deal with the virus spread without destroying its economy and forcing its citizens into isolation, the same day the article came out, *ABC Presstitutes* posted this headline on their website:

Sweden's coronavirus plan failed to stop the virus, and a vaccine may not be enough to "rescue" them, experts warn.

— *ABC News*, 27 November

The one area Swedish officials admit they failed was in protecting the elderly during the first six months of the viral spread. The *BMJ* data shows that "89 percent of Sweden's COVID-19 deaths were in people over 69. During the first six

months of 2020 over 2,000 people died in nursing homes as a result of what Sweden's Health and Social Care Inspectorate described as 'serious failings.'"

But Dr. Anders Tegnell, the architect of the Swedish coronavirus policy, recognized the failure in a statement on 6 June, and he immediately started putting safety measures in place including a six-month ban on visits to nursing homes.

And on 1 October, *Reuters* wrote, "Sweden ended a six-month ban on visits to nursing homes on Thursday, delighting residents and their relatives." Dr. Tegnell was quoted at new conference that day, "It must be remembered that it's a right for those who live in nursing homes to receive visit. The nursing homes now have to ensure that visits can be made in a safe manner."

TRENDPOST: *While the media continues to attack Sweden – as its mask-less masses celebrate the holidays in the old-style, "classic" tradition – Presstitutes ignore comparison of lockdown/no-lockdown data.*

For example, in Sweden, with a population 10,127,000 to date, 7,067 reportedly died from the virus. This compares to the U.S.'s locked-down state of Michigan, with a population of 9,987,000, which has registered 10,321 virus deaths.

Yet, the Presstitutes applaud the draconian lockdown rules imposed on Michigan by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, in which some 3,000 more people died, while attacking the Swedish Freedom model.

Barely mentioned in the mainstream media is the hard fact that the vast majority of deaths (some 50 percent or more) were senior citizens from elder care homes and people suffering from pre-existing chronic health conditions.

Thus, as Sweden takes measures to protect its elderly and most vulnerable, America and other western nations lock down those not likely to die from the virus while continually censoring the fact that some 99.8 percent of those who are infected by the virus recover... and ignoring the financial and mental toll it has taken on hundreds of millions.

PRIMARY COVID-19 TEST: “ERRORS AND FLAWS”



Month after month, week after week, day after day, the big news in the mainstream media “news” is the rising number of COVID cases.

Absent from coverage is the main reason cases are spiking: fearful millions are lining up, waiting hours to get tested... or being forced to by their employers and/or governments. As we again note, the recovery rate from the virus is 99.8 percent, and most cases are mild... and the tests are inaccurate.

In our 1 December Trends Journal, we cited the reporting of Peter Andrews, a medical journalist based in London, who wrote about a Portuguese court case won by defendants forced into quarantine. The case was based on the judge’s determination that the widely used COVID-19 PCR test used to indicate levels of infection was flawed. Thus, the test result data was thrown out as inadmissible evidence.

This past week, Mr. Andrews reported on a new study conducted by 22 respected experts revealing “10 major flaws” with the PCR test. The study was conducted by a consortium of molecular geneticists, immunologists, biochemists, and microbiologists from Europe, Japan, and the United States.

This peer-reviewed report was published on 27 November and is titled, “External peer review of the RTPCR test to detect SARS-CoV-2 reveals 10 major scientific flaws at the molecular and methodological level: consequences for false positive results.”

The report carefully analyzed a previous study, called the Corman-Drosten paper, published on 23 January, which was quickly adopted as the reason to make the PCR test what the CDC referred to as the “Gold Standard.”

After coming under the scrutiny of the consortium of medical experts issuing this new report, the PCR “Gold Standard” test can be seen more accurately as the “Lead Weight Standard.”

Below is an excerpt from the report on just how flawed the original paper promoting the PCR test was:

“Neither the presented test nor the manuscript itself fulfils the requirements for an acceptable scientific publication. Further, serious conflicts of interest of the authors are not mentioned. Finally, the very short timescale between submission and acceptance of the publication (24 hours) signifies that a systematic peer review process was either not performed here, or of problematic poor quality. We provide compelling evidence of several scientific inadequacies, errors and flaws.”

As Mr. Andrews gleans from the report, the major weaknesses of the PCR test include that it:

- “Is non-specific, due to erroneous primer design,
- Is enormously variable,
- Cannot discriminate between the whole virus and viral fragments,
- Has no positive or negative controls,
- Has no standard operating procedure,
- Does not seem to have been properly peer reviewed.”

In addition, three of the authors of the original paper used to promote the PCR test had a major conflict of interest: “At least three of them are on the payroll of the first companies to perform PCR testing.”

Given the central role the PCR test has played in determining levels of infection worldwide, Andrews concludes:

“It is difficult to overstate the implications of this revelation. Every single thing about the COVID-19 orthodoxy relies on ‘case numbers,’ which are largely the results of the now widespread PCR tests. If their results are essentially meaningless, then everything we are being told – and ordered to do by increasingly dictatorial governments – is likely to be incorrect.”

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Not only is this information barely reported by the mainstream media, when it is, they distort it so it is perceived as inaccurate or a conspiracy theory.

Or, as it is happening to myself, any COVID analysis that contradicts the mainstream pitch is being censored.

Yesterday, I received this warning from YouTube for my “Trends in The News” video, titled, “Corona Hysteria: Presstitutes and Politicians Killing Economy” posted on their channel:

“Hi Gerald Celente,

We wanted to let you know our team reviewed your content, and we think it violates our medical misinformation policy. We know you may not have realized this was a violation of our policies, so we’re not applying a strike to your channel. However, we have removed the following content from YouTube:

Video: Corona Hysteria: Presstitutes and Politicians Killing Economy

We realize this may be disappointing news, but it’s our job to make sure that YouTube is a safe place for all. If you think we’ve made a mistake, you can appeal this decision.

What our policy says

YouTube doesn’t allow content that explicitly disputes the efficacy of local health authorities’ or World Health Organization (WHO) guidance on social distancing and self isolation that may lead people to act against that guidance.”

Despite my quoting **factual scientific data**, the superior medical experts at YouTube “think it violates [their] medical misinformation policy.”

“Think”? How about providing data to prove it was misinformation. “We think” is not a legal or professional substitute for “we know.”

Furthermore, much of my reporting quotes WHO data.

Thus, in the new ABnormal world of Slavelandia, you are not free to Think for Yourself, and you must obey what the “authorities” dictate.

LOCKDOWN CAUSES MASSIVE “LEARNING POVERTY”



As the **Trends Journal** has reported in a number of issues, the unprecedented closing down of the world economy to deal with the virus has had a devastating effect on child education.

Now, last Wednesday, a press release published by the educational division of the World Bank reveals how the lockdowns’ oppressive effect on children worldwide is clearly worse than the coronavirus itself.

The press release headline reads: “Pandemic Threatens to Push 72 Million More Children into Learning Poverty.”

“Learning Poverty” is the term used to describe any child not in school and not able to read and understand “an age-appropriate text by age 10.”

As the press release states,

“Of 720 million primary school age children, 382 million are learning poor, either out of school or below the minimum proficiency level in reading. COVID-19 could boost that number by an additional 72 million to 454 million... it puts this generation of students at risk of losing about \$10 trillion in future life-time earnings, an amount equivalent to almost 10 percent of global GDP.”

Among the negative impact of locking down economies on a global scale, the press release cites two massive “shocks”:

“School closures have left most students on the planet out of school – 1.6 billion students at the peak in April 2020, and still almost 700 million students today.”

“The negative impact of the unprecedented global economic contraction on family incomes has increased the risk of school dropouts. Marginalized groups are likely to fall further behind. Girls are facing increased risk of adolescent pregnancy and early marriage during the pandemic. And children with disabilities, ethnic minorities, refugees, and displaced populations are less likely to access suitable remote learning materials and to return to school post-crisis.”

The World Bank financial commitment to address “Learning Poverty” will rise to \$6.3 billion this year. So far it can only reach out and help about 1/3 of the students worldwide suffering the consequences of the global lockdowns.

TREND FORECAST: *Beyond the negative learning implications, children are being deprived of basic human experiences: no touching, no hugging, no singing, no dancing, no sport, no marching bands... unless they are “socially distanced.”*

The constant fear of living freely, being ingrained now in children and others by “local health authorities” and their Lords & Masters, will deeply scar them for life.

However, there will be a push back to the “Great Reset,” as detailed in one of our [“Top 10 Trends for 2021: Youth Revolution.”](#)

As Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And “lose it” they will, as they sink deeper into poverty, are unable to afford college educations, and, even if they got one, the job offers and salaries would be far below middle-class standard.

TREND FORECAST: *For both better and for worse, Interactive U, online learning, is the new education system of the 21st century that will replace the Industrial Age Prussian model imposed on society in the late 1800s.*

*In **Trends 2000** (Warner Books, 1997), Trends Research Institute founder Gerald Celente laid the foundation for a powerful trend line for Interactive-U, which would fortify over a period of decades. He had forecast that “Interactive, online learning will revolutionize education.”*

Moreover, Celente forecast that “the growth of the home education and Interactive-U trend will accelerate rapidly once tele-videophony or other comparable multimedia-interface technologies become available and affordable.”

Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age and die. Interactive U has been prematurely born... pushed out by COVID.

Thus, the development of the new education system will continue to evolve and advance at much higher levels than the current one being forced on students.

The process of integrating VR-ED and Interactive-U learning into aspects of traditional education is a 21st century megatrend that governments, politicians, and business leaders will advocate... and provide broad ranges of profitability for OnTrendpreneurs® who seize the opportunities.

Among the leaders in the virtual field of education are India's models which, for several years, provided virtual education from kindergarten through doctoral studies.

COVID VACCINE: SCIENTISTS WARN “CAUTION”



On 16 November, Moderna, one of the pharmaceutical companies developing a COVID-19 vaccine, issued a press release announcing it had conducted a successful trial. It also noted that the National Institute of Health (NIH) confirmed the result of the company's COVE study, which included more than 30,000 participants.

The initial results of the testing show the vaccine to be 90 percent effective in preventing the coronavirus. The FDA is expected to quickly approve the “Operation Warp Speed” vaccine under a shortcut known as “Emergency Use Authorization.”

But scientist William A. Haseltine, former professor at Harvard Medical School with special expertise in biochemical pharmacology, wrote an article for Forbes

magazine that was published the same day as the Moderna press release, with the headline, “A Note of Caution on Moderna’s Promising Covid-19 Vaccine News.”

Professor Haseltine’s two main reasons for recommending caution:

“Because of the accelerated pace of the vaccine trials, we are only able to judge how the vaccine activates the body’s primary immune response. This initial response may raise antibodies that can protect against infection, but that protection will fade and may fade rapidly, in as short a period as two months...long-term immune response is best tested six months to a year after vaccination which means, in the case of accelerated vaccine approval, we do not know if the vaccines generate long-term memory.”

“Then there is the safety issue to consider. Moderna, like Pfizer (the drug company whose vaccine has already been approved for use in the U.K.) says their vaccine was generally well tolerated during the trials. In Moderna’s case, reported side effects from the vaccine included muscle aches, fatigue, and headaches shortly after vaccination. With our accelerated COVID vaccine timeline, no one can yet say what the long terms side effects of the vaccine may be. Vaccines are normally proven safe over the course of years, not months. The FDA is only requiring two months of safety data before potentially issuing emergency approval.

This last point is particularly relevant. Rarely, if ever, has a vaccine ever gone through an approval process anywhere near this speed. On the U.S. Health and Human Services own website, vaccines.org, it’s stated that “Before a vaccine is ever recommended for use... its process can take several years. FDA (Federal Drug Administration) uses the information from these tests to decide whether to test the vaccine with people.”

So, instead of the “several years,” the FDA, under pressure from Operation Warp Speed, is shortening the testing requirement to several months.

As for the consequences of adverse health reactions from a new vaccine, *History of Vaccines.org* states,

“About 30,000 events caused by vaccines are reported each year. Between 10% and 15% of these reports describe serious medical events that result in hospitalization, life-threatening illness, disability, or death.”

More Caution Recommended for U.K. Vaccine

Nature, a leading peer-reviewed science journal, published a similar article as Professor Haseltine last Thursday. *Nature* was looking at the rush by the U.K. to get a vaccine produced by Pfizer-BioNTech out as soon as possible.

As the article notes,

“With striking speed, the United Kingdom has become the first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine that has been tested in a large clinical trial. On 2 December, UK regulators granted emergency-use authorization to a vaccine from drug firms Pfizer and BioNTech, just seven months after the start of clinical trials.”

The article quotes Stephen Griffin, a virologist at the University of Leeds:

“Neither the Pfizer-BioNTech nor Moderna vaccines have demonstrated that they prevent infection altogether, or reduce the spread of disease in a population.”

The article then states, “Pfizer has said that its scientists are looking at ways to assess disease transmission in future studies.”

Future studies? The vaccine is set to be made available for public use this month!

Another unanswered question is how long immunity from the vaccine would be effective. According to *Nature*, “There is no quick way to determine how long immunity to the SARS-CoV-2 virus will last, and researchers will need to monitor this closely in the coming months and years.”

More Caution Flags

Adding to the potential danger of the current COVID-19 vaccines cited by medical experts in the *Forbes* and *Nature* articles, comes this from *Business Insider* on Friday:

“Pfizer’s chairman says it’s not clear whether people who are vaccinated can still spread COVID-19.”

Not clear? Pfizer's chairman Albert Bourla told *NBC*, "More studies had to be done into whether someone who had been vaccinated could still transmit the coronavirus... we are not certain about that right now with what we know."

TRENDPOST: *Despite the cautionary warnings cited in this article, according to Dr. Moncef Slaoui, the chief advisor to the U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed, some 100 million American will receive COVID-19 vaccinations over the next three to four months.*

It should also be noted that Dr. Slaoui, chosen by the Trump administration to head the effort to get a vaccine out at "Warp Speed," was former head GlaxoSmithKline's vaccine department.

CANADIAN MED OFFICER: NO VAX, NO FREEDOM



Dr. David Williams, Ontario's chief medical officer, said in a recent interview that he cannot force someone to take the coronavirus vaccine, but anyone who refuses will no longer have the freedom "to move around," according to a *WND.com* report.

"What we can do is to say sometimes for access or ease of getting into certain settings, if you don't have vaccination then you're not allowed into that setting without other protection materials," he said, according to the report.

CNN reported last week that the U.S. Department of Defense put its first images of the COVID-19 vaccination cards on display. Dr. Kelly Moore, the associate director of the Immunization Action Coalition, told the news outlet, "Everyone will be issued a card that they can put in their wallet that will tell them what they had and when their next dose is due."

TRENDPOST: Dr. Jane M. Orient, an internist who received her medical degree from Columbia University, is expected to be a witness at the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing. She has been a vocal critic of mandated vaccines for the public and called it a violation of human rights, according to The New York Times.

“It seems to me reckless to be pushing people to take risks when you don’t know what the risks are,” she told the Times. “People’s rights should be respected. Where is ‘my body, my choice’ when it comes to this?”

The paper pointed out that in the article, there is no evidence coronavirus vaccines affect fertility in young people, but Orient said that has not been proven.

TRENDPOST: According to a Pew Research Center study, some 40 percent of Americans say they would “definitely” or “probably” **not** get a vaccine. The line from the “experts” is that about 70 percent of the population needs to be vaccinated or have natural antibodies to achieve herd immunity.

What is not discussed is that if everyone who wants the vaccine gets vaccinated, why force those who do not want the vax to get vaccinated, since those who were vaccinated are safe from catching the virus?

The same with wearing masks: those who wear masks are safe from those who do not wear them, according to their belief, so why force those who do not want to wear one to have to?

Individuals should be allowed to make their own decisions about their lives.

GET VACCINATED OR GET FIRED



As we go to press, the word's out that by Thursday, the millions of people who were lining up to get tested for COVID could be lining up to get vaccinated within days.

According to an article published by *CNBC* yesterday, "Yes, your boss can fire you if you refuse to get a COVID vaccine."

They state that under the law, bosses can force employees to get vaccinated and, if they don't, they can fire them.

They quoted Rogge Dunn, a Dallas labor and employment attorney, who said, "Under the law, an employer can force an employee to get vaccinated, and if they don't take it, fire them."

Dunn said one of his clients is a restaurateur who believes if a restaurant promotes that all of its employees got vaccinated, "it gives them a competitive advantage," because they would "say to their customers, 'Hey, our restaurant is safe. All of our employees have been vaccinated.'"

CNBC also quoted Dorit Reiss, a professor at the University of California Hastings College of Law, who said, "Requiring a vaccine is a health and safety work rule, and employers can do that."

Dr. Hana El Sahly, who oversees a clinical trial for Moderna's vaccine candidate, was quoted saying he believes hospitals could eventually make COVID inoculation a condition of employment, similar to how the annual influenza vaccine is required of all medical staff.

TREND FORECAST: *There will be strong and growing resistance among a sizable segment of the population who will resist getting a COVID vaccination. As noted by one of our "Top 10 Trends for 2021: Anti-Vax Political Parties" will be a major platform in the formation of new political parties in nations across the globe.*

QUARANTINES ON AIR TRAVELERS: “NOT EFFECTIVE”



Last Wednesday, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) issued new guidelines that make it clear the severe restrictions being put on air travel are not effective at stopping the spread of COVID.

The guidelines state, “Travelers should not be considered as a high-risk population, nor treated as contacts of COVID-19 cases, unless they had been in known contact with a confirmed positive case.”

Throughout the European Union, as is true among individual states in the U.S., there is no consistency among the restrictions imposed by political leaders when it comes to both testing and forced quarantines. And, overall, the restrictions show no strong results.

The ECDC worked closely with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on the new guidelines. As reported by *Politico.eu*, the two agencies’ combined data confirmed that “strict testing and quarantines are only useful if a country has reduced transmission levels to almost zero.”

Adina Valean, the European Commissioner for Transport, told a sustainable summit meeting organized by *Politico* on 2 December, “The traveler, is not an infected person... We have absolutely no scientific proof that traveling as such was bringing an increase of the [infection] numbers.”

The aviation industry quickly responded to the European agencies new guidelines by requesting governments to end their quarantine and testing restrictions. As reported by *airportsecurity.com* on 3 December, Olivier Jankovec, the head of ACI Europe, a trade organization responsible for improving airport management, stated,

“These guidelines unequivocally show quarantines to be essentially politically driven, non-risk-based measures, which bear no relation to what is actually needed to safeguard public health. As such, quarantines fail the test of proportionality, a key principle of EU law, particularly since there are no equivalent measures at land borders.

This has resulted in unprecedented limitations to the freedom of movement and the freedom to provide services. We call on national governments to immediately abolish their quarantine restrictions and restore freedom of movement for European citizens.”

BILLION \$\$ COVID SCAM: BIG BUSINESS WINS



This past April, the U.S. Congress, with much fanfare from the mainstream media, passed a \$669 billion business loan initiative called the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). It was described as intending to help small business owners, self-employed workers, sole proprietors, and non-profit organizations stay open during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

The low-interest loans were to help small businesses make payroll, pay rent, etc., to keep millions of employees from losing their jobs. The program was administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Note: According to the U.S Chamber of Commerce, as of 2018, there were 30.2 million small businesses operating in the U.S. Most significantly, 99.9 percent of businesses in the U.S. are small businesses.

Who Got The Money?

After the SBA was forced to release the trail of disbursements due to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the *Washington Post* and ten other news organizations, it is now known that most of the money promoted as going to small businesses actually went to large corporations, including national chains.

Some Freedom of Information data obtained included:

- “More than half of the money from the Treasury Department’s coronavirus emergency fund for small businesses went to just 5% of the recipients.”
- “About 600 mostly larger companies, including dozens of national chains, received the maximum amount allowed under the program of \$10 million.”
- “Officials from the Treasury Department and the Small Business Administration have argued that the program primarily benefit smaller business because a vast majority of the loans – more than 87% – were for less than \$150,000, as of August. But the new data show that more than half of the \$522 billion in the same time frame had gone to bigger businesses, and only 28% of the money was distributed in amounts of under \$150,000.”
- “The Treasury Department later asked large well-capitalized borrowers to return their funding, though the agency has not disclosed which borrowers have done so.”
- “A *Washington Post* analysis of 4.9 million loans initially released by the SBA contained numerous errors, casting doubt on the administration’s claim that the \$517 billion in lending had supported 51 million jobs.”

In addition to large companies with huge reserves receiving financial aid said to be going to support small businesses devastated by the extended lockdowns, some members of Congress personally profited. *Forbes* reported on 16 July, “Businesses owned by Rep. Roger Williams (R-Tex.) and Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.), as well as businesses connected to the husbands of Rep. Susie Lee (D-Nev.) and Rep. Debbie Mucarsel Powell (D-Fla.), all received loans from the program.”

According to *Forbes*, Congress added language into the PPP legislation that allowed large hotel chains, including the Trump Organization, to qualify for the small business loans, even though they had much more than the maximum 500 employees allowed. Among the added language, for example:

“During the covered period, any business concern that employs not more than 500 employees per physical location of the business concern... at the time of disbursement shall be eligible to receive a covered loan.”

Notice the sneaky phrase “500 employees *per physical location*.” In fact, the Trump Organization, like many of the large companies sucking billions from the small business fund, employs thousands overall, but not more than 500 at any one site.

Among the dozens of large, well-financed companies which received SBA loans intended for struggling small businesses:

- Auto Nation (market cap \$3 billion), received \$80 million
- Shake Shack (market cap 1.7 billion), received \$10 million
- LA Lakers (not publicly traded), received \$4.6 million

And, according to *CNBC*, the luxury sushi restaurant and hotel chain Nobu, financially backed by Robert De Niro, “took 14 loans from the U.S. small business relief program for as much as \$28 million, according to government filings.”

As for the argument that money going to large companies like Auto Nation kept people employed, Freedom of Information data showed that “for more than 875,000 borrowers, the data shows zero jobs were supported or no information is listed at all.”

TRENDPOST: *Fortune magazine reported that as of 28 September, nearly 100,000 American small businesses that temporarily shut down due to the lockdowns are now permanently out of business.*

Metroplex Social reports that since March, when the lockdowns started, 26.5 million U.S. jobs were lost. Yet, of the \$349 billion earmarked for truly small businesses and sole proprietors, the SBA only approved 4 percent of the loans, with most of the money going to larger companies.

ANTI-LOCKDOWN PROTESTS: CALGARY, EDMONTON



Canadians held rallies last weekend over the latest COVID restrictions.

A protest in Calgary drew hundreds of demonstrators, many of whom were not wearing masks. Premier Jason Kenney took to Twitter to call the protest “irresponsible” and said it shows a blatant disregard for “health-care workers and the vulnerable.”

Premier Kenney also said,

“Go ahead, call me a dictator, but send me emails; organize online petitions or a safe protest that’s socially distanced... You don’t have the luxury of increasing the chances of transmission... If you think this is a hoax, talk to my friend who spent nearly two months in the ICU fighting for his life or speak to those who have lost loved ones.”

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, the province’s chief medical officer, asked residents to stay home. Before the protests, the United Nurses of Alberta also asked protesters to stay home.

The protesters were critical of the 10-person limit on outdoor gatherings and new mask mandates.

A protest also broke out in front of Edmonton, which is located in the province, according to the *Calgary Herald*. The paper reported an organizer for the protest, called “Walk for Freedom,” posted a statement online that called Alberta an emerging “beacon of freedom” in the country.

“It’s time for Alberta to show the world that we are the creators of our own destiny,” the post read.

Global News interviewed some protesters who said they were standing up for their rights to govern their own bodies.

“My children miss school,” Nicole Kelly, a protester, said. “They miss their friends. But they can’t breathe in masks and I’m their advocate, and I’m here to advocate for their right to breathe.”

TRENDPOST: *Virtually absent in the selling of COVID Fear and Hysteria by the politicians and media is the fact that since the COVID War began in February, Alberta and the province that includes Calgary, with a population of 4.37 million, recorded 596 virus deaths... or 0.014 percent of its population.*

Of them, some 376 COVID-related deaths (63 percent of the virus deaths across the province) have been linked to elder care homes.

Yet, despite the facts that the virus kills infirm elderly by the highest percentages and those with 2.6 preexisting chronic conditions – with a 99.8 percent recovery rate – those protesting lockdowns that are destroying businesses, lives, and livelihoods... and are not at high risk to die from the virus, are demonized for demanding freedom.

BOSTON: MORE LOCKDOWNS, MORE HOMICIDES



It’s a trend we forecast in March when politicians began locking down economies to fight the COVID War: **“RISE IN CRIME,”** and it’s spreading across America.

Homicides in Boston have jumped 54 percent from last year, the *Boston Globe* reported. The paper reported that shootings are also up in the city along with gun-related arrests.

The “experts” who didn’t see it coming are now blaming dire economic conditions that are taking a toll on young people who are out of work, out of school... and out of luck.

Brother Donnell Singleton, who works for SOAR Boston, told the paper that a high unemployment rate in the young community has also contributed to the feeling of desperation.

“If you’re homeless, you’ll do almost anything to keep a roof over your head, including being a triggerman or being a drug dealer,” he told the paper. The paper also spoke to Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, a religious leader, who said “extreme poverty” is impacting young people.

“You have a few thousand idle, extremely poor kids,” Rivers told the paper. “And hopelessness is a factor.”

TRENDPOST: For the first time in a decade, Los Angeles hit the 300-homicide mark; Chicago has had 700 homicides and 3,000 shootings, which mark a 50 percent increase through the first 11 months of the year; New York City has experienced a 95 percent increase in shootings compared to 2019, and a 38 percent increase in homicides.

*The extent of the damage caused by the coronavirus is not yet known, but the **Trends Journal** has warned that the subsequent lockdowns would lead to an epidemic of despair among the young and old.*

*Knowing at the onset of the COVID War in February that crime would dramatically escalate, we added our “Survivalism” column as an essential element of the **Trends Journal**.*

In a society that teaches children to hide in “no bullying zones” if they are being picked on and politicians and the media selling the myth that the police are there to protect you – as though you can call 911 when your life is in instant danger by a murderer, rapist, thief, etc. – the fight has been drained from the human spirit.

In close combat Survivalism, unlike most forms of martial arts, there are no forms to follow... other than the one you were born with, which, from kindergarten through adulthood, “the establishment” has brainwashed out of the human spirit.

NJ GOV PHIL MURPHY: “NO ONE SHOULD BE TRAVELING”



Last Wednesday, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy declared that no one in his state should be traveling outside the state for any reason other than absolutely essential tasks.

Also, as the supreme ruler of the state, Murphey scribbled his name on an “executive order” that shuts down all indoor sports and restricts outdoor gatherings to 25 people... excluding wedding ceremonies, memorial services, and political activities.

“Mask up. Social distance. Wash your hands. Avoid gatherings,” His Highness Murphey tweeted on Sunday.

TREND FORECAST: While dining out with his family last month, two women berated Murphy for his arbitrary rules and hypocrisy. As evidenced in the video, the governor was stupefied and motionless when the Jersey Girls called him out. And rather than standing up and addressing the confrontation, little boy Murphy cowered in fear, looking down, kept eating... and then, masked up.

We note this since Murphy epitomizes the political cult who play tough on stage while their bodyguards surround them, but are cowards when confronted on the street when no one is there to protect them.

As economic conditions deteriorate and people lose everything, they will lose it on the “system” and those who run it.

NHL'S CANUCKS FIRES ITS ANTHEM SINGER FOR SINGING FREEDOM



'O, Canada... what happened?

Mark Donnelly, the singer of the Canadian national anthem at Vancouver Canucks hockey games since 2001, was fired for singing at Christmas Freedom Rally in Vancouver.

Sportsnet Canada reported that Donnelly appeared before the crowd and slammed the city's "draconian lockdown protocols."

"What was originally sold as 15-day hunkering down Sprint for the common good has turned into a 10-month marathon from hell, where the finish line is constantly being moved further into the distance," he said. He told the crowd that "as someone known for singing our great national anthem, I'm standing up against what I feel is tyranny, plain and simple."

Donnelly, 60, told the outlet that sports figures and entertainers are allowed to stand for anything "as long as it supports the narrative. You can support rioting, looting, destruction of livelihoods and reputation, but take a position against the narrative and you are worthy of exile or worse."

Residents across the country have begun to lash out at coronavirus restrictions they say unfairly target places of worship and businesses deemed to be "non-essential."

The Church of God Steinbach was fined \$5,000 last week for holding an in-person service that was reportedly in violation of the Manitoba province's public health order. Officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police blocked a drive-in service last weekend.

“God has given us the right to worship Him together and He wants to see His people united,” Henry Hildebrandt, the senior pastor, told the *Christian Post*. “It seems like we’re living in a different Canada. It’s very heartbreaking to me.”

TRENDPOST: *As we have forecast in our “Top 10 Trends for 2021: Church of Freedom, Peace & Justice,” a massive, subverted sector of the population that fully oppose authoritarian dictators who have locked down their lives will unite under a religious umbrella.*

Open to all faiths whose God professes liberty, love, peace, joy and justice for all, it will usher in a universal religion of the highest order.

POLITICIANS: DO AS WE SAY, NOT AS WE DO



Austin, Texas mayor Steve Adler joined the long list of politicians who have been called out for hypocrisy during the coronavirus outbreak. While on vacation in Mexico, he filmed a video telling his constituents why they must obey his COVID orders, urging them to stay home.

The New York Times reported that Alder flew on a private jet to Mexico and then told his constituents, “We need you to, you know, stay home if you can.”

Emily Williams Knight, the chief executive of the Texas Restaurant Association, told *KXAN-TV* that Alder’s orders to close down bars and restaurants badly damaged the industry in the city.

“It’s hypocrisy at its best,” she said.

Freak Show

Last week, Sheila Kuehl, the Los Angeles County supervisor, was also called out for hypocrisy after she was caught dining outside at an Italian restaurant in Santa Monica just hours after voting to close outdoor dining in the city.

ABC 7 reported that a protest broke out in front of Kuehl's home on Saturday over the closure of outdoor dining. Many at the protest said they invested heavily to accommodate outdoor dining amid the outbreak. The ban is expected to last for the next three weeks, which will directly affect the holiday season for these restaurants.

"They yank us back and forth," said Camila Dizon, the owner of The Oaks Tavern in Sherman Oaks. "All of a sudden we have all these bills that we can't pay because they tell us the day of the shutdown that you can't work anymore."

Freak Masters

Up north in San Francisco, Mayor London Breed admitted she joined seven others to celebrate the birthday of Gorretti Lo Lui, who was described in reports as a prominent socialite. Mayor Breed attended the party at the French Laundry – the same restaurant that attracted Newsom. *Fox News* pointed out that three days after Breed returned to the city from Napa Valley, she banned all indoor dining in San Francisco.

SFGate.com reported that Breed did not technically break any guidelines by dining at the restaurant, yet, she admitted she broke the "spirit" of the law. Governor Breed said,

"As I said yesterday, it doesn't matter if I was technically... if I was technically violating local health orders, because I know that as mayor, I should hold myself to a higher standard – I understand that. My job just isn't to lead by the letter of the law, but to lead in the spirit of it. I understand that and I'm committed to doing better."

She added, "No one is perfect, and certainly not me."

TRENDPOST: Yes, "No one is perfect," and certainly not her, but politicians think they are until they get caught... and then they spew out slimy little lines of apology. When, in truth and in fact, they are not sorry for what they did – they are just sorry they got caught.

TRENDPOST: One of the main arguments health officials and politicians face from business owners is they are not presenting the science that makes the case that dining outside is a higher risk for people than, for example, shopping at Home Depot or Target.

The ABC 7 report said the protesters wanted Kuehl to produce evidence supporting the claim that dining outside is a greater risk, which she did not.

The same questions were raised when governors and mayors put curfews in place. Where is the science that says the risk of COVID transmission somehow increases after 10:01 PM?

TRENDPOST: Politicians and health officials are intent for not allowing citizens to return to their normal way of life. Instead, they are creating a Great Reset of a new ABnormal.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, touted by the Presstitutes and politicians as America's top disease expert, told CNBC that even with an effective vaccine, it will not be like a "light switch" back to normalcy.

Jonathan Van-Tam, the U.K.'s deputy chief medical officer, recently said that Britons could very well wear some kind of face covering for years. "I think those kind of habits that we've learned from that clearly stop the spread of other respiratory viruses such as flu will perhaps persist for many years," Van-Tam told reporters, making references to mask-wearing and hand sanitizer. "And that may be a good thing if they do."

LOS ANGELES' MAYOR ORDERS CITIZENS TO "CANCEL EVERYTHING"



Last Friday, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told residents in the U.S.'s second-largest city they must stop all travel – including “travel on foot” – and “cancel everything.”

“My message couldn’t be simpler: It’s time to hunker down. It’s time to cancel everything. And if it isn’t essential, don’t do it,” Garcetti said.

Forbidding them to celebrate the Christmas holiday spirit, His Honor declared,

“Don’t meet up with people outside your household. Don’t host the gathering, don’t attend a gathering, and follow our targeted safer-at-home order, if you’re able to stay home, stay home. Just be smart and stay apart.”

THE ORDER: All retailers must operate at 20 percent capacity, and food and drink cannot be consumed while inside these stores. All dining except for take-out is barred. Playgrounds, hair salons, and movie theaters must close... and to make sure kids are in bed early, he even ordered day camps for children to close down from 10 PM to 5 AM.

There are reports of growing dissent among small businesses who are lashing out at Garcetti’s orders as being arbitrary and irrational.

Angela Marsden, the owner of Pineapple Hill Saloon & Grill, showed a video of her restaurant that had a tent and seats for outdoor dining but was closed due to Garcetti’s order. She videoed a nearby TV show set that showed a similar setup, according to the paper. Ms. Marsden said,

“Tell me that this is dangerous, but right next to me – as a slap in my face – that’s safe?”... Mayor Garcetti and [Governor] Gavin Newsom are responsible for every single person that doesn’t have unemployment, that does not have a job, and all the businesses that are going under. And we need your help. We need somebody to do something about this.”

Newsom has also implemented new restrictions in the state that are set to span 21 days. These restrictions focus on travel and shopping.

The *Times* pointed out that orders restrict retail businesses to limit in-person shopping to 20 percent capacity and take-out service only at restaurants.

CNN reported that residents in southern California and San Joaquin Valley will be under the stay-at-home order because intensive care unit capacities dropped

below 15 percent. The report said the order affects 27 million in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County. The region recorded 25,000 new cases on Saturday.

“The bottom line is, if we don’t act now, our hospital system will be overwhelmed,” Newsom said.

Some local governments have taken a stand against dining restrictions, including Beverly Hills and Pasadena. Harmeet K. Dhillon, an influential lawyer in California, told *The New York Times* there is a risk the state could begin to have a “boy-who-cried-wolf situation.”

“People are going to say, ‘He [Newsom] said the hospitals would fill up in March and they didn’t,’” Dhillon wrote.

TREND FORECAST: THE NUMBERS DON’T LIE, POLITICIANS DO.

Los Angeles County has been locked down twice since March. Ten million people live in the area, and the death toll is around 7,740, which equals a 0.0774 percent death rate.

Over the course of nine months, there is a 0.0086 percent death toll in the county, and yet politicians in the state, led by Governor Gavin “French Laundry” Newsom, enacts policies that are destroying the economic lives of millions.

TREND FORECAST: *Among the elements of the new Anti-tax platform will be cash-strapped constituents demanding politicians and public officials who order their businesses to close and put them out of work to take pay cuts themselves.*

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

TRUMP: PULL TROOPS FROM SOMALIA



President Trump reportedly ordered his military leaders to pull out the approximately 700 U.S. troops stationed in Somalia who mainly have been training forces in the country to be prepared to defend themselves against al-Shabaab fighters.

Rather than bringing the troops home, it is reported they will be repositioned in Kenya.

Unreported in the mainstream news is that civil unrest has broken out in Kenya, and tensions between Somalia have been escalating.

Among the latest clashes between the neighboring nations is Somalia's expulsion of Kenya's ambassador late last month, accusing Kenya of interfering in the electoral process in Jubbaland, one of Somalia's five semi-autonomous states.

Somalia also recalled its ambassador from Nairobi.

"As a result of the Kenyan government's political interferences in the internal affairs of Somalia, the regional President of Jubbaland has reneged on the election agreement that was reached on the 17th September 2020 in Mogadishu," the Somali Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Facebook.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Trump's decision faced some criticism.

"We face heightened threats to our national security during this," Rep. Anthony Brown, told the paper, referring to the shift from the Trump administration to

Biden. “This action puts U.S. soldiers at risk, makes our country less safe, and it threatens the stability of our partners in Africa.”

TREND FORECAST: Foreign policy was barely discussed in this year’s Presidential Reality Show, and it is out of the mainstream news.

As we have been reporting, violence and civil wars are erupting in African nations, most recently, the Ethiopian war launched by its Nobel Peace Prize Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed against the leaders of the Tigray Region.

With economies across Africa sinking deeper into the “Greatest Depression,” social unrest, violence, and poverty will escalate, which in turn will ramp up a refugee crisis, many of whom will want to escape to Europe and safer havens.

U.N. CALLS FOR YEMEN CEASEFIRE



It is the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth, but barely reported and hardly discussed: the 2015 war launched against Yemen by Saudi Arabia with the support of the United States. (See our 29 September 2017 article, [“MIDDLE EAST WAR DRUMS ARE BEATING.”](#))

Last week, the U.N. announced that the war in Yemen has resulted in the death of 233,000 civilians.

Altaf Musani, the chief humanitarian coordinator for the U.N. in Yemen, said hostilities in the country have “directly caused tens of thousands of civilian casualties; 3,153 child deaths and 5,660 children or verified in the first five years of the conflict, and 1,500 civilian casualties were reported in the first nine months of 2020.”

Yemen's civil war started in 2014, when the Houthis, who were ruling large sections of Yemen for over 1,000 years, overthrew the unelected president who was put in control by the Saudi's, took control of Sana'a, and then seized the presidential palace.

In response, the Saudis formed a coalition to regain control of Yemen. *NBC News* reported that the Trump administration is considering naming the Houthi rebels a terror organization, a move U.N. officials say could lead to a worsening crisis. John Barsa, the acting USAID deputy administrator, personally appealed to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to hold off on the decision, *NBC News* reported.

AntiWar.com reported it is challenging to quantify the precise number of fatalities because some regions in the country are "not analyzed" because the conditions are so poor, "they can't really function."

The U.N. has warned that the country is closing in on famine conditions and millions could be affected. The *Guardian* reported a recent assessment showed thousands in the country headed into famine, and that number is expected to triple at the beginning of 2021. The report said 16,500 people there are facing a "catastrophic, famine-like situation." Oxfam's Yemen director said it is "intolerable" that people in the country face conflict, coronavirus, cholera, and catastrophic levels of hunger.

"These alarming numbers must be a wake-up call to the world," David Beasley, the World Food Program's executive director, told the *Guardian*. "Yemen is on the brink of famine and we must not turn our backs on the millions of families who are now in desperate need."

TRENDPOST: *The U.N. has been warning that the coronavirus outbreak and economic fallout could push up to 32 million people in the world's poorest countries into extreme poverty... and the world seems not to care.*

Mushsin Siddiquey, Oxfam's Yemen director, recently pointed to data produced from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute that showed G20 states "have exported over \$17 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia since the Kingdom entered the conflict in Yemen." ReliefWeb.int reported that UNICEF's humanitarian appeal pulled in \$237 million, which is a funding gap of almost \$300 million.

While the COVID War and its growing "cases" make headline news month after month, barely a peep from the Prostitutes of the mass murder and human

suffering inflicted upon innocent people by murderous politicians and their nations that sell the invaders murderous weapons.

INDIAN FARMERS PROTEST CONTINUE



As we have been reporting, protests have broken out in New Delhi, India, which are comprised of farmers voicing their concerns over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for deregulations they fear will sink them deeper into poverty.

With their economy sinking for several consecutive quarters before the COVID War broke out, India's GDP is estimated to have fallen 15.7 percent over six months through September.

In response to the legislation, farmers have blocked major roads and burned their crops, contending that deregulation will lead to small farms becoming insolvent and eventually taken over by larger rivals.

"Most of the farmers, we have tried not to burn, but we wanted to show our resentment," Devinder Singh, 41, told *The New York Times*. "If you impose on us, we will burn it."

"They never expected farmers to come out in such large numbers to protest," Vikram Singh, the joint secretary of the All India Agricultural Workers Union, told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We will not back off until our demands are met."

TREND FORECAST: *To reiterate our forecast, as we reported in early January, with the Indian economy in its seventh consecutive quarter of contraction, protests against the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were escalating.*

Also, in January, we reported on the demonstrations spreading throughout India as millions of Indian citizens continued the two months-long protests against the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act, spearheaded by Mr. Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party, which grants citizenship to religious minorities – except Muslims – from neighboring countries.

In response, these demonstrations were halted when the Prime Minister suddenly locked down the entire nation in March in his fight to win the COVID War.

As economic conditions continue to decline, demonstrations will escalate and India's military/police forces will violently clamp down on protesters.

However, try as military might to stop the protests, with hundreds of millions of Indians losing everything and with nothing left to lose, they will not back down until the government meets some of their demands.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN FRANCE OVER MACRON'S SECURITY LAW



Violent protests broke out last weekend in French cities including Paris, Lyon, and Marseille over President Emmanuel Macron's draft security law that has been blasted by critics as a major crackdown in the country on civil liberties.

The protest targeted a bill Macron's government proposed last month that would ban publishing images of police officers, claiming it would put their lives in danger. The proposal was seen as vague and protesters took to the streets. The penalty could come with a 45,000-euro fine and up to one year in jail.

However, the streets erupted en masse following the release of a video on social media of police severely beating Michel Zecler, a black music producer, for not wearing a face mask.

Reuters reported that “Black Bloc anarchists” in the country fired projectiles at police officers and damaged property during the unrest. The news agency reported the violence marks the second weekend of unrest in the country’s capital. The report said 30 rioters were arrested.

Thousands of protesters descended on Porte des Lilas on Saturday, and 22 were arrested after clashes with police. Gerard Darmanin, the French interior minister, thanked police for confronting “very violent individuals.”

RT.com reported that cars were torched, buildings damaged, and firecrackers were fired at police. Police responded by firing tear gas.

The report said some demonstrators chanted, “Everyone hates the police.”

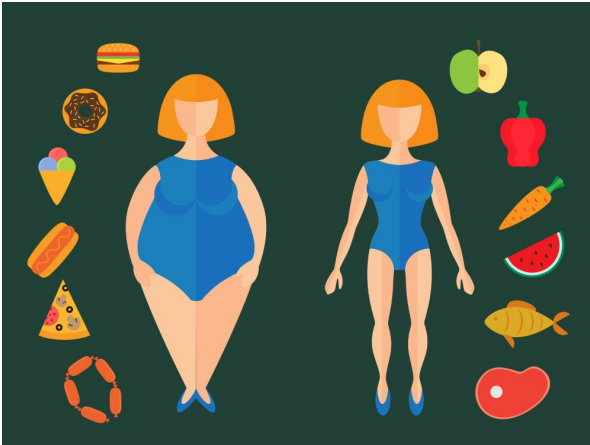
TRENDPOST: *As with most politicians, France’s Emmanuel Macron will trample fundamental human rights to make political gains.*

Macron is set to face a tough challenge from Marine Le Pen, labeled by the media as a “far right” opposition leader. Thus, it assumed that using his crackdown on mosques and Article 24 will make inroads into Le Pen’s support base.

Alexis Poulin, a political commentator, told Al Jazeera that Macron is “just preparing for the major success of Marine Le Pen. [Far-right voters] clearly want to stick to the original and in Macron, they only see a fake president trying to act like he’s understanding.”

TRENDS-EYE VIEW

“NUTRITIONAL TRANSITION” THREATENS HEALTH, LAND, WATER



As China, India, and other countries develop their economies, their food preferences change: instead of starchy plant foods such as rice and yams, consumers gravitate to meat and processed foods laden with sugar and unhealthy fats, according to new research from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Using a computer model that projected from development trends in place before the COVID pandemic, the study forecasts that, as a result, within 30 years, global food demand will grow by 50 percent and demand for meat and milk will double.

As a consequence, more than four billion people – about 45 percent of the world's expected population – will be overweight by 2050, more than a third of them obese.

In addition to the damage that obesity and a diet of processed foods do to human health, the shift to animal products also threatens land and water use, the study points out.

Studies have shown that grazing beef cattle to feed a population takes substantially more land and water than does raising enough plants to nourish the same number of people.

As demand for meat rises, more and more land is likely to be deforested or otherwise cleared for pasture, a process already well underway in South America's Amazon River basin.

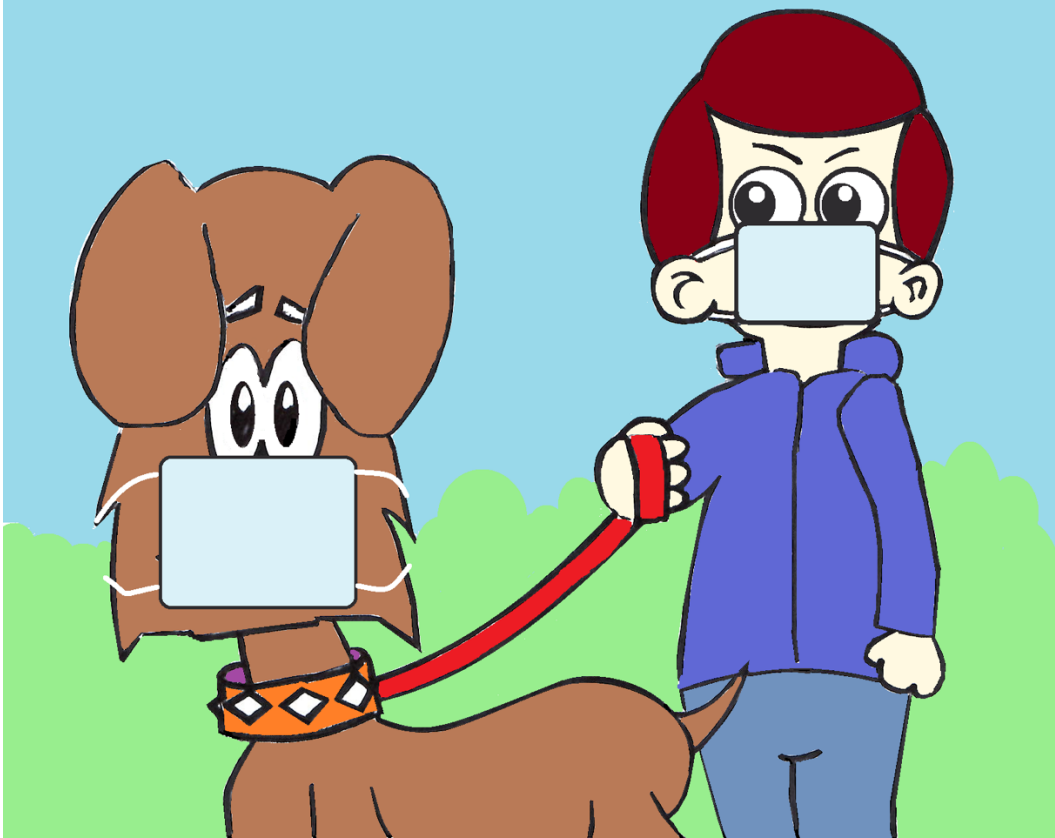
At the same time, the world's growing population will continue to demand more land on which to live, creating a clash between demands for livable and arable land.

The Potsdam study's authors urge a concerted global public health campaign to foster healthy, plant-based eating habits to conserve land, water, and human health.

THE ART OF TRENDS

"MORE BAD NEWS" by Stephen Green

Mom heard on the news that
dogs can spread the virus.



www.MuseumofAwesomeArt.com

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE *by Bennett Davis*

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRANSFORMS CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



Chemical engineering has been a laborious process: marking up the whiteboard to lay out a hypothesis, then putting on the lab coat, grabbing the test tubes, and hitting the workbench for long sessions of “wet chemistry” to test the idea.

Now artificial intelligence can do most of that wet work instead.

IBM’s new RoboRXN chemistry research software combines artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and automated processing to test new combinations of substances to see how they blend and whether a particular combination can meet a specific goal or need.

A chemist specifies the compound he wants to create and the RoboRXN figures out the ingredients, catalysts, and reactions needed to create it.

The AI program also will predict the result of chemical combinations an engineer proposes.

IBM’s AI-based offering is a cousin of the robot chemist created by scientists at the University of Liverpool. The mobile robotic arm performed 688 physical experiments, working with ten variables, in eight days to identify the most effective catalysts to pull hydrogen from water.

The resulting compounds were found to be six times more effective than those the scientists had thought of.

TRENDPOST: Artificial intelligence will continue to automate processes of discovery, redefining... and perhaps eventually eliminating career fields in engineering, science, and technology.

AN ELECTRONIC BLOOD VESSEL



Scientists have been growing miniature versions of organs, such as livers and lungs, in labs for some time. But creating blood vessels to nourish and sustain those lab-grown tissues has been harder.

Engineered vessels often have resulted in tissue rejection or they simply failed to work for sustained periods of time.

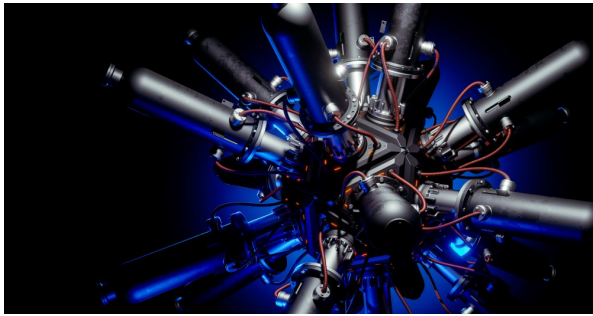
Now scientists at China's Southern University of Science and Technology and the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences have found a better blood vessel.

Using a stretchy, printable biodegradable polymer that contains a liquid metallic electrical conductor, the researchers created a tube less than a quarter-inch in diameter (less than 6 mm). When they applied an electric current through the conductor, a scattering inside the tube of the three kinds of cells that line blood vessels began to multiply. The current also helped the cells self-organize into the three layers of cells inside an artery or vein.

Tested in rabbits, the electronic blood vessel was as flexible and free-flowing as nature's own and didn't clog or degrade over time.

TRENDPOST: The new technique gives bioscientists another tool with which to eventually build replacement organs, using a patient's own stem cells, when original equipment fails. In the future, the vessels also will be used to replace clogged or damaged blood vessels in persons with cardiovascular disease.

BRITAIN PLANS COMMERCIAL HOT-FUSION REACTOR



The British government is seeking a site for what would be the world's first commercial fusion reactor. The device would heat hydrogen gas to the temperature of the sun's surface to melt hydrogen atoms together, unleashing vast energies and providing clean power in more quantities than the device uses.

So-called "hot fusion" has been in development for more than 40 years but has yet to prove the reaction can be sustained long enough to deliver electricity affordably and reliably.

The new project, called the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP), is intended to commercialize a simplified fusion reactor design dubbed the Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak, which was successfully test-fired in October at the U.K.'s Culham Centre for Fusion Energy.

STEP's construction budget is said to be less than \$10 billion, cheaper than a conventional nuclear power generating plant. It also won't be able to breed tritium, a lethal radioactive element. But STEP will need tritium to ignite its reactions, so operators will need to import the scarce and dangerous material from elsewhere.

Also, plasma heated to millions of degrees F in a small space will be hard on materials, and STEP will have to be shut down periodically so interior parts can be replaced.

The push to build STEP might not be entirely technological.

The British government's major previous fusion project is winding down, leaving a cadre of fusion engineers with little to do. Also, the U.K. might lose its role in Europe's joint fusion program if it doesn't work out a successful Brexit deal.

In addition, two private-sector start-ups are hot on the trail of commercial fusion power: Tokamak Energy, a British venture, hopes to build a working fusion reactor by 2030; Commonwealth Fusion Systems in the U.S. plans for one to be ready by 2025.

In contrast, STEP is slated to begin construction in 2032 and start delivering electricity by 2040.

TRENDPOST: *Hot fusion technology has never shown an ability to deliver a sustained reaction that justifies a commercial project, much less the investment required to build one. There is no evidence it can be made practical, especially when the cost of renewable energy continues to plummet and the world is moving to decentralized power generation.*

As a research field, hot fusion suffers from a case of what economists call “sunk costs:” governments have invested tens of billions in it over decades; respected scientists have built their academic careers and credentials in the field. To pull the plug now and admit hot fusion’s impracticality would be to admit past investments of money, time, and careers were wasted – an admission that none of the players seem yet to be able to make.